

# West Norriton Township

## Storm Water Program

### WHAT IS STORM WATER?

**Rain or snowmelt runoff that accumulates in natural and/or constructed storage facilities and storm water systems during and immediately following a storm event.**

#### **Pollution from Stormwater**

Given the above technical definition, West Norriton Township would like to help you understand why storm water is important to our community. Rain or snowmelt is essentially “clean”. It’s when the rain turns into “stormwater” is when it becomes a potential problem. When rain hits the ground and flows over the surface it is called stormwater. When stormwater flows over the man made surfaces such as lawns, driveways and parking lots, it picks up pollutants left by us and carries them to the nearest stormwater inlet on your street. From the inlet the storm water flows through a system of underground pipes to where it dumps into a stream or wetland. This is the “point” when it can potentially be a problem. Hence the term “Point Source Pollution”.

Stormwater runoff is our most common cause of water pollution that impacts our streams, wetlands, lakes, rivers and groundwater. Unlike pollution from industry or sewage treatment facilities, stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people in your neighborhood, from our pets, from our household cleaners, from our lawn fertilizers and from our cars.

These man made areas are described as having impervious surfaces, or surfaces that are unable to absorb water and allow the rain to soak into the soil. Because the rain cannot soak into the soil any longer, water flows over the surface. The more water the more risk there is for increased volume and velocities scouring the channels that carry the water and for picking up pollutants dripped or discarded onto the ground. Common pollutants include oil and grease from roadways, pesticides from lawns, sediment from construction sites, and carelessly discarded trash such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles and pet waste. When discharged into nearby streams these pollutants can impair the waterways, thereby discouraging recreational use of the resource, contaminating drinking water supplies, and interfering with the habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife.

## **EPA's Storm Water Phase II Rule**

Because stormwater pollution is caused by so many different activities, traditional regulatory controls will only go so far. For this reason the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are requiring that West Norriton Township educate our citizens about the effects of stormwater on our environment and how we all can help to prevent it from causing harm.

Polluted storm water runoff is often transported to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (1 M & 4 Ss - MS4s) and ultimately is discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. EPA's Storm Water Phase II Rule requires establishment of an MS4 storm water management program that is intended to improve water quality by reducing the quantity of pollutants that storm water picks up and carries into storm sewer systems during storm events.

### **What Are the Phase II MS4 Program Requirements?**

West Norriton Township is required to design their program to:

- 1) **Reduce** the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP);
- 2) **Protect** water quality; and
- 3) **Satisfy** the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Implementation of the MEP standard will typically require the development and implementation of BMPs (Best Management Practices) and the achievement of measurable goals. The DEP has developed a program of six Minimum Control Measures (MCM) that comply with the EPA standards. They are:

#### **MCM No. 1 Public Education and Outreach**

Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted storm water runoff discharges can have on water quality.

#### **MCM No. 2 Public Participation/Involvement**

Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a storm water management panel.

#### **MCM No. 3 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system that includes developing a system map and informing the community about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.

#### **MCM No. 4 Construction Site Runoff Control**

Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb 1 or more acres of land (controls could include silt fences and temporary storm water detention ponds).

#### **MCM No. 5 Post-Construction Stormwater Management BMP's**

Developing, implementing, and enforcing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on post-construction storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (i.e., wetlands).

#### **MCM No. 6 Municipal Operations and Maintenance Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping**

Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques (i.e., regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch-basin cleaning).

## **Links for Developers and Contractors**

[Montgomery County Conservation District](#)

[EPA stormwater](#)

[Does your Construction Site need a Permit?](#)

[Maintain Your BMPs](#)

[Maintain Your BMPs II](#)

[EPA Permits and Forms](#)

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## **Links for Homeowners**

[Water Efficient Landscaping](#)

[Kids Stormwater Stickers](#)

[10 Things you can do for clean water](#)

[Take the Stormwater Challenge](#)

[Protecting Water Quality](#)

[You Can be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution](#)

[PADEP Stormwater](#)

***Any resident wishing to participate in the development and implementation of the West Norriton Township Stormwater Program please contact Tom Cinaglia at the Township office 610-631-0450.***

For any questions or concerns regarding storm water or to report illicit discharges or construction site runoff please contact Tom Cinaglia at the Township Office.

**More Stormwater links:**

[Pennsylvania DEP Stormwater Management Page](#)

Schuylkill Watershed Conservation Plan

<http://www.schuylkillplan.org/index.html>

Wissahickon Watershed Association

<http://www.wvwa.org/>

[United States EPA Stormwater Final Rule](#)

[Pennsylvania Bureau of Watershed Management](#)

[Pennsylvania Fish Consumption Advisory](#)

[Stroud Water Research](#)