

## BOROUGH OF STRASBURG ENACTS NEW STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE TO COMPLY WITH ACT 167



### WHY?

In November 2013, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved the Lancaster County Model Stormwater Management Ordinance. The Model Ordinance (MO) was developed to implement the Act 167 Stormwater Management element of the County's Comprehensive Plan. All Lancaster County municipalities were required to update their existing Stormwater Management Ordinances to be consistent with the Act 167 elements of the County's Plan within six months of DEP's approval of Lancaster County's MO.

The purpose of the ordinance is to control runoff rates and runoff volume associated with impervious areas of newly developed and redeveloped properties and, in addition, to improve the quality of stormwater runoff and to promote groundwater recharge. An impervious area is an area where rain water cannot soak into the ground such as a structure, driveway or walkway.

### WHAT THIS MEANS TO HOMEOWNERS

The main impact of the updated ordinance will apply to small projects of less than 2,500 square feet of new impervious areas. Under the ordinance, any lot, which has undergone no impervious area additions since June 22, 2004, will be eligible for a stormwater management exemption up to a cumulative 1,000 square feet of new impervious area. Cumulative impervious areas between 1,001 and 2,500 square feet would be eligible to use a "Small Projects" permit application. The Small Projects require the applicant to provide some stormwater analysis and controls, which can be completed by the applicant, without obtaining the services of an engineering consultant, by using the application and worksheets in the ordinance. The Borough has posted useful information on its website such as "The Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater" to assist applicants with preparing a Small Project application.

Projects larger than the cumulative 2,500 square feet would require the assistance of an engineering consultant to prepare plans and calculations, as they have in the past.

### WHAT THIS MEANS TO DEVELOPERS

The Ordinance now brings consistency with the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit requirements. Volume control BMPs (Best Management Practices) must prevent an increase in post development runoff volume (for storms less than or equal to a 2-year 24-hour event), using groundwater recharge, evapotranspiration and/or reuse. Redevelopment projects will also require that a certain amount of volume be permanently removed from the total runoff.

### MAINTENANCE

As in the past Borough staff continues to maintain dedicated stormwater facilities (inlets, storm pipes, etc.) which are located in the public right of way. Private stormwater facilities (inlets, storm pipes, swales, stormwater basins, etc.) located outside the public right of way are to be maintained by the property owner or the Home Owner's Association. Regular inspection of stormwater facilities is needed. To assist with inspection efforts the Borough has prepared a stormwater inspection checklist for property owners, the checklist identifies the frequency and items to be inspected.



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Boroughs' website is a valuable resource where items such as the 2014 Strasburg Borough Stormwater Management Ordinance, property owner inspection checklist and The Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater, along with other items, can be found.

## STRASBURG BOROUGH'S MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PROGRAM

The Clean Water Act is the federal legislation that governs stormwater management. Stormwater point discharges to waters of the U.S. are regulated using National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

The Stormwater Phase 2 Final Rule extended coverage of the NPDES program to small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4's). Strasburg Borough is required to comply with the NPDES program as a MS4 municipality. Essentially MS4 municipalities are being required to take a more active role in inspecting and maintaining the storm sewer system. Under the NPDES stormwater program, permittees must develop a stormwater management plan that provides the details of how the community will comply with the requirements of the permit. Permits are based on a framework of six Minimum Control Measures (MCM's):

MCM 1 - Public education and outreach

MCM 2 - Public participation and involvement

MCM 3 - Illicit discharge detection and elimination

MCM 4 - Construction site runoff control

MCM 5 - Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment

MCM 6 - Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance

Water is an important resource and an important issue to the Borough. Residents are encouraged to get involved. Now is the time to get involved to help the Borough plan for this resource.

Ways to get involved include:

- Maintain any stormwater facilities that are on your property.
- Keep leaves and sticks out of storm inlets before and during rain events.
- Don't dump grass or leaves in the street, swales or streams.
- Don't dump chemicals down your drain, in your yard or in storm inlets.
- Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers carefully and only when needed.
- Get involved with a local organization that helps to take care of our streams and waterways such as the Pequea Creek Watershed Association or the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) such as old computers, paints, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, old gas or oil at the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority's HHW facility.
- If you wash cars at home, use a low or no phosphate bio-degradable car wash soap and wash the car on the lawn.
- Contact the Strasburg Shade Tree Committee to plant a street tree and/or volunteer to help plant the trees.
- Install innovative stormwater practices on residential property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens, that capture stormwater and keep it on site instead of letting it drain away into the storm sewer system.
- Report any discharges from stormwater outfalls during time of dry weather—a sign that there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess—in a backyard or at the park—stormwater runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system to a stream.



More information and resources are available below:

Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium <http://www.lccwc.com>

Lancaster County Conservancy / LIVE Green <http://www.lancasterconservancy.org/urban-greening>

Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority – Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)  
[http://www.lcswma.org/lcswma\\_facilities\\_hhw.html](http://www.lcswma.org/lcswma_facilities_hhw.html)

Lancaster County Watershed Program <http://www.lancasterwatersheds.org>

Pequea Creek Watershed Association <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pequea-Creek-Watershed/325656381245>

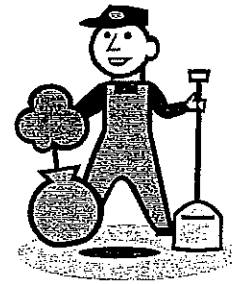
Strasburg Borough <http://strasburgboro.org/current-news/stormwater-resources/>

## “SHADY DEALS” IN STRASBURG BOROUGH

The Shade Tree Committee has a great deal for Borough residents: **FREE TREES!**

The committee is currently taking orders from property owners who would like trees planted along their street frontage at no cost. Don't hesitate to apply—it's first come, first served for these free trees and quantities are limited!

There are many varieties of trees available through this program; visit the Borough website at <http://strasburgboro.org> (no www.!) to view the recommended street tree list, or come by the Borough Office to look through our “Street Tree Fact Sheets” booklet that contains information about and photographs of the many tree varieties offered. When you have selected your tree species, fill out a Street Tree Request Form (downloadable from the website) or stop in and fill one out to get on the list for up to two free trees. If you need help selecting the perfect tree(s) for your home, our knowledgeable committee members are available to assist you.



Volunteers are *always* welcome to help dig holes and get the trees in the ground on planting days. This is a worthwhile volunteer opportunity and counts toward community service hours for high school students. It's also a good way for those who have received a free tree to “pay it forward.” *The committee has especially appreciated the tremendous assistance received from Lampeter-Strasburg's FFA students and their advisor, Holly Oberholtzer, for our most recent plantings in 2013 and early 2014.* Many hands make light work!

The Shade Tree Committee is dedicated to restoring the tree-lined streets of yesteryear as well as enhancing the streetscape in the community's newest neighborhoods, in the interest not only of beautifying our town but also providing improved air quality, environmental cooling, and stormwater control throughout the borough. Over the past fourteen years the Shade Tree Committee, with help from Public Works staff and willing volunteers, has planted more than 180 trees along Strasburg's streets! The committee members also plant and maintain flowerbeds and hanging baskets each summer around the Borough's Center Square.

Call the Borough Office today at 717-687-7732 if you would like your free trees, to volunteer your help on planting days, or to learn more in general about the Shade Tree Committee's work.

**And remember, at NO CHARGE, a free tree is an unbeatable deal!**

## DISPOSE AND RECYCLE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FROM YOUR HOME FREE OF CHARGE

Numerous materials used in the home, garage and garden are considered household hazardous waste (HHW). They can cause serious safety and health problems in transportation and for disposal facilities.

The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority's (LCSWMA) HHW Facility, located at 1299 Harrisburg Pike in Lancaster, accepts qualifying items for **FREE** from Lancaster County residents. Operating hours are Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

### What materials does the HHW facility take for **FREE**?

- \* Household & auto batteries
- \* Fire extinguishers
- \* Household cleaners
- \* Pesticides & herbicides
- \* Computers & monitors
- \* Televisions and cell phones
- \* Floor & furniture polish
- \* Chemistry sets
- \* Mercury-containing items (max of 30 per month), including ballasts, fluorescent bulbs, thermometers, etc.
- \* Paint, stains, turpentine, thinners & rust inhibitors and adhesives
- \* Photographic & pool chemicals
- \* Automotive fluids (5 gallon container max)
- \* Kerosene, gasoline & propane
- \* Computer peripherals (keyboard, mouse, printer, speakers)
- \* Cooking and frying oils (5 gallon container max)
- \* Televisions and cell phones
- \* Lawn treatments, including herbicides & pesticides



### Important Reminders:

- \* Only the items listed above are accepted at the HHW Facility. All other materials, including appliances, are considered trash and may be disposed of for a fee.
- \* Empty containers, from paint and other items that previously contained liquids, are not accepted at the HHW Facility and may be disposed of as regular trash.
- \* LCSWMA does not accept items from institutions, industries, or manufacturers at the HHW Facility.
- \* Household batteries **SHOULD NOT** be thrown away in your trash! Either bring them to the HHW or place them in an orange battery collection bag next to your trash can for your hauler to pick up.