

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 an 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 storm water management in new development and redevelopment

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

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking a more active role, visiting municipalities and ensuring that an adequate MS4 program is in place and is being followed.

All residents can help make a difference.

Residents can get involved by planting trees and other vegetation. Trees intercept rainfall and help slow down and reduce runoff to the MS4 infrastructure and can reduce the amount of pollutants stormwater runoff picks up from roadways and parking lots and carries into our streams. Free street trees are available through the Borough's Shade Tree Committee and property owners are also encouraged to plant trees in the "interior" of their properties. For more information on MS4s and planting trees, please see the following online resources:

- Pennsylvania DEP: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/>
- U.S. EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>
- Arbor Day Foundation: <http://www.arborday.org/trees/stormwater.cfm>
- Chesapeake Stormwater Network: <http://chesapeakestormwater.net/2013.04/homeowner-bmp-guide/>

You can also assist the Borough with its requirements by monitoring or reporting stormwater discharges which occur during dry periods, typically 48 hours after rainfall. These non-rainfall discharges are referred to as illicit discharges. If you see or suspect an illicit discharge, please contact the Borough office. The Borough's website also features a link to report illicit discharges.

Additionally, private stormwater facilities (inlets, storm pipes, swales, stormwater basins, etc.) located outside the public right-of-way are to be inspected and maintained by the property owner or the Home Owners' Association. Regular inspection and maintenance 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. Borough staff will be following up with property owners to ensure inspection and maintenance is being completed and documented.

The Borough's 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.

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MS4 Program (Continued)

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.

Other ways to get involved include:

- **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 biodegradable 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.
- 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.



Lots of Choices for Water Customers

A welcome feature for many of our water customers has been the variety of payment options that are available. We now accept Visa, MasterCard, and electronic check payments, either online, by phone, or in person. You can also set up your account to pay automatically from your credit card or checking account. AutoPay by check also requires a signed authorization form and voided check be on file with us. There is a small convenience fee charged to the customer for each of these options. These fees are established by our payment processor, and at present are set at \$0.50 per electronic check and, for credit cards, \$1.49 for amounts \$0-\$50; \$2.60 for amounts from \$50-\$100; \$3.90 for amounts from \$100-\$150; \$5.20 for amounts from \$150-\$200; and 2.99% of the total for amounts \$200 and above.

You can now access your account details online, and do such things as check your account balance, view billing and payment history, change the way you receive your bill (via postal or e-mail, or both), set up AutoPay, and make online payments. Simply provide us with your e-mail address; once we enter it into your account, you'll receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions for getting started as an online user. This feature will only allow access to information about the specific account(s) associated with a particular e-mail address; your account info is secure from casual viewing by others.

Even if you choose not to set up online access, or without logging in, you can still pay bills quickly and securely online. Simply click the green "Make Payment/View Account" box on the home page of the Borough website, and choose the "Online Payment" option.



We also have an after-hours dropbox for payments. It's located next to our front door and is emptied every weekday. It's a handy way to save postage or get a payment in before deadline!

If you'd like more information about any of these options, or need help in getting started or signed up, just give us a call at 687-7732 or stop in during regular office hours, Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.