

Your Water, Your Future

by Dauphin County Conservation District

Dauphin County's Stormwater Publication for Municipalities
Issue 11 • August 2007

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Key Facts About Stormwater Management

This final issue of the *Your Water, Your Future* newsletter series highlights the main points to consider when creating your municipality's stormwater management strategy. We then take a glimpse into the future of stormwater management, concluding the series with an overview of potential future directions of stormwater programs and DCCD's role in helping municipalities to implement sound management strategies that protect Dauphin County's natural resources while providing for community growth.

Your Water, Your Future is produced as part of Dauphin County Conservation District's Municipal Stormwater Outreach Initiative.

Please contact Gil Hirschel at 921-8100 regarding questions, comments, and requests for additional information.

This publication is funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 Clean Water Act grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.



Water Quality

- Stormwater runoff, despite its unpredictable nature, is a valuable natural resource.
- Watersheds provide critical natural resources that sustain or enrich our lives, such as our drinking water, agricultural products, plant and animal habitat, and areas of natural beauty that promote outdoor recreation.
- Municipal land use and stormwater management decisions have a profound impact on many aspects of the water cycle, locally and regionally, as watersheds are interconnected. To avoid serious problems, municipal decision makers must address the effects on water quality and quantity caused by new and existing development.
- Adequate stormwater management practices will delay, capture, store, treat, and infiltrate runoff before it leaves a site.
- Inadequately managed stormwater runoff is the most pervasive problem in Dauphin County's watersheds; it contributes to water pollution, increased and more severe flooding, greater instream erosion, loss of groundwater recharge, declines in dry weather streamflows, degraded instream habitat, reduced aquatic diversity, increased resident complaints, and increased infrastructure costs.



Cost

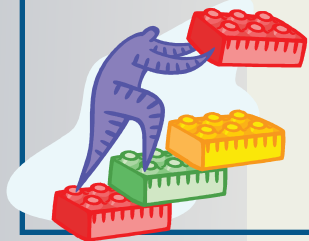
- Ineffective stormwater management results in runoff flows of greater volume and velocity that cause property damage and elevate cleanup costs.
- Costs arising from flood damage to municipal infrastructure can add up to millions of dollars; flood insurance does not always cover all damages.
- Ineffective stormwater management has the potential to reduce tax revenues.
- A study by the National Association of Home Builders indicates that proximity to water raises the value of a home by up to 28%.
- Experts generally agree that the installation of new, innovative stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) are less costly than installing conventional storm sewers.
- Municipalities have the tools to avoid the heavy costs of inadequate stormwater management through well-written and adequately enforced stormwater management, subdivision, land development, zoning, floodplain and building ordinances.

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Ordinances

- Conventional forms of development can cause a host of water resource problems. These negative impacts can be minimized by municipal decisions that support natural resources-based planning and environmentally sensitive site design, and that incorporate stormwater BMPs.
- A number of municipalities in Dauphin County have stormwater management ordinances based on Act 167 stormwater management planning. Enforcing these ordinances is an effective step towards achieving your municipality's goals of protecting water resources and ensuring livable, attractive communities.
- Municipal ordinances that allow flexibility in site design facilitate site planning that achieves effective stormwater management.



- Municipal officials can encourage the use of innovative stormwater management solutions that include both non-structural and structural BMPs by making sure that current ordinances allow for their use.

WORKSHOP REMINDER

To attend DCCD's Stormwater Workshop for Municipal Officials on Tuesday, October 2, please call or fax your registration by Monday, September 24.

- To avoid unnecessary confusion and delay for development projects, municipal stormwater management ordinances should be consistent with applicable regulations and programs.
- Enacting zoning, subdivision, or special ordinances that protect streamside buffers are options that can help with minimizing flood damage, stream erosion, water pollution, and overall financial cost to the community.
- Land use ordinances that protect the floodplain from development can reduce problems arising from flood-related damage to property owned by constituents or the municipality.

Future Directions

Recognizing that inadequately managed stormwater runoff produces a host of water resources problems in Pennsylvania and across the nation, it is expected that in the future, federal and state regulatory agencies will develop even more stringent and complicated stormwater management policies and procedures. It is likely that the requirements contained in regulations such as Act 167 and the Municipal Small Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) program will multiply.

It is anticipated that the main burden of implementing these additional requirements will fall on local governments. With the current rate of development and the spread of impervious land surfaces in Dauphin County, especially in the southern half, expected to continue into the foreseeable future, municipalities will face greater challenges in managing stormwater runoff. The expanded regulations and increasing land development will impact directly on local governments and the public.

To meet these challenges, Dauphin County Conservation District (DCCD) will continue its role as an informational clearinghouse about stormwater regulations, trends, and

management strategies. Our goal is to provide municipal decision makers, project designers, and the public with updated and relevant information that can be used in shaping sustainable communities.

We encourage you to visit our Stormwater BMP Demonstration Tour, featuring sixteen operating structural BMPs. The self-guided BMP tour, located on the grounds of the Dauphin County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center in Dauphin, is open to the public. Guided group tours are also available, to request a group tour, please contact the DCCD office at 717-921-8100.

We continue to emphasize that, as a municipal decision maker, you have the greatest responsibility for how and to what extent stormwater is managed and in turn, the impact of stormwater on water resources. We hope that you have found this newsletter series informational and that it has proven to be a valuable resource in making appropriate stormwater management decisions. We welcome any comments you may have about the newsletter series and look forward to working with you in the future. □