



CITY OF EASTON PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Public Works
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Stormwater Management Program Overview

What is Stormwater?

Rain water that flows from land into streams and rivers is referred to as stormwater runoff. In natural and undeveloped areas, soils are able to absorb and filter stormwater in a process called infiltration. In developed areas, the natural environment has been replaced with buildings, roads, driveways, and sidewalks. These hard surfaces, called impervious surfaces, do not allow for infiltration to occur. Instead, stormwater runoff flows rapidly into the City's stormwater system and ultimately drains into our streams and rivers. Stormwater runoff can cause:

- Flooding,
- Changes in the flow rate of streams,
- Public infrastructure and private property damage, and
- Stream contamination and poor water quality.

Easton is responsible for managing the water flowing into its stormwater system and also to minimize adverse impacts to public infrastructure, private property, and the environment.

Did You Know That Easton ...

Maintains 35 miles of stormwater system pipes and over 1,600 storm drains?

Much of the City's stormwater system is more than 80 years old and was installed prior to modern codes and design guidance. As a result, our existing storm infrastructure requires significant amounts of maintenance and investment.

Sweeps 40 miles of City streets?

Street Sweeping removes pollutants such as grit and trash that would otherwise flow into the Lehigh & Delaware Rivers and the Bushkill Creek. This helps to protect water quality.

Collects leaves from streets and residences across the City?

Collecting leaves prevents them from flowing into our waterways and blocking storm drains. This effort also helps to maintain the stormwater system's ability to carry runoff.

Has committed to improve its 11 miles of streams and rivers?

Both the Bushkill Creek and the Lehigh River flow into the Delaware River in downtown Easton. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) considers a body of water impaired if it fails to meet one or more water quality standards. Currently, DEP states that:

- The Lehigh River has impaired aquatic habitat caused by urban runoff, siltation, and low oxygen levels
- The Bushkill Creek is impacted by upstream land uses
- The Delaware River has restricted fish consumption because of certain pollutants

PADEP Requires Easton to Take Specific Actions to Protect Local Waterways Through a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Issued to the City. Easton's Stormwater Program Will ...

- Fix and replace aging storm pipes, storm drains, and culverts.
- Reduce the flow of pollutants to local streams and rivers.
- Comply with the City's federal MS4 permit.
- Add green infrastructure (including street trees and rain gardens) into our community.

To Fund This Program ...

The City has enacted a stormwater user fee to go into effect in January 2019. Accordingly, your January 2019 utility bill City will include a new charge for stormwater services provided by the City.

- Single family residential properties (single homes, twins, and townhomes) will be billed \$6.75 each month.
- Non-single family residential properties will be billed \$6.75 each month for every 1,797 square feet of impervious surface on their property as mapped by the City.

This fee will provide the City with approximately \$1.3M annually to be dedicated to fund Easton's Stormwater Program, including the new water quality requirements issued by PADEP.

How Can I Learn More?

To learn more about the City's stormwater program, including the stormwater user fee, credits for non-single family residential property owners, the appeals process, and the City's Stormwater Ordinance, please view the other links included on this web page or Public Works Department at publicworks@easton-pa.gov or (610) 250-6680.