



Understanding Stormwater

Stormwater Runoff – The system collects rainwater runoff and directs it into local streams without putting it through the sewage treatment plant. Parts of the system are open to the surface and no one is charged for its use. The primary role of the stormwater system is to protect property against flooding and water damage.

The stormwater system uses a combination of private and public components. The design and construction standards are specified in the Uniform Construction Code of the Seven Fields Borough Code of Ordinances and **prior Borough approval is required for all development plans.**

A good stormwater management plan targets the accelerated runoff resulting from land development and prescribes the construction of various swells, culverts, catch basins and detention ponds, as well as other water-handling facilities to channel and stage the release of rainwater to prevent downstream flooding.

Maintenance Responsibility

The responsibility for maintaining the stormwater facilities is divided among homeowners, neighborhood associations, commercial property owners, Borough and state authorities as follows:

Roof and Foundation Drains – These drains, along with the gutters, spouts and pipes which connect them to the community's storm sewer system are the homeowner's responsibility.

Driveway Pipes and Culverts – These are typically the homeowner's responsibility.

Drainage Ditches – These are generally the responsibility of the homeowners association unless the ditch is specifically designated as a public or municipal drainage easement.

Pipes and Culverts Underneath Roadways – The owner of the road assumes responsibility for these facilities. On private roads, or on newer plans where the roads have not yet been accepted by the Borough, it is the homeowners' or developer's responsibility. On public roads it is the responsibility of either the Borough or the State.

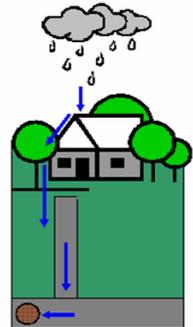
Clearing Debris and Erosion along Stream Channels – Removing debris from local streams to keep them flowing is generally the responsibility of the land owners whose property abuts or is traversed by that stream. Note, however, the repair of erosion on large streams such as building channel walls, may require a state permit.

Catch Basins – The owner of the road along which catch basins are situated is responsible for maintaining them which could be either the Borough, PennDOT, the plan developer or the owners of a private roadway or parking lot where basins are installed.

Detention Facilities – Detention ponds in residential plans are typically the responsibility of the neighborhood's homeowners association. Detention facilities in non-residential areas are normally the responsibility of the private establishments they serve. Developers are typically responsible for detention pond maintenance in newly developing plans until they are turned over to the homeowners association.

Understanding Stormwater 10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and gutters.
2. Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
7. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
9. Pick up after your pet.
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.



For more information visit: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater