

Lower Providence Township Stormwater Management Program

Polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. Over land or via storm sewer systems, polluted runoff is discharged, often untreated, directly into local water bodies. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways.

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program is a comprehensive two-phased national program for addressing the non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges, which adversely affect the quality of our nation's waters. The Program uses the (NPDES) permitting mechanism to require the implementation of controls designed to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by stormwater runoff into local water bodies. Phase II of the NPDES stormwater regulations came into effect in 2003. These regulations place new requirements on approximately 5,000 small and medium-sized cities and towns and as many as 200,000 construction sites (1 to 5 acres). **Lower Providence Township falls within these federal and state regulations and must comply beginning in 2004.**

Stormwater pollution from point sources and non-point sources is a challenging water quality problem. Unlike pollution from industry or sewage treatment facilities, which is caused by a discrete number of sources, stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere. Rainwater and snowmelt run off streets, lawns, farms, and construction and industrial sites and pick up fertilizers, dirt, pesticides, oil and grease, and many other pollutants on the way to our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Stormwater runoff is our most common cause of water pollution. Because stormwater pollution is caused by so many different activities, traditional regulatory controls will only go so far.

Citizen education and outreach programs are key components to any successful stormwater program. That is why Lower Providence Township has chosen to begin an educational program on stormwater management over the next four years.

If you are teacher and need handouts, placemats, stickers or just an individual who desires more information on the stormwater educational program, please click on the following links:

1. [EPA - Stormwater Month Outreach Materials and Reference Documents](#)
2. [EPA - Storm Water Discharges From Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems \(MS4s\)](#)
3. http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/nps_urban-facts_final.pdf
4. <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/NPDSMS4/MS4CD/default.htm>