

You might be wondering with all that goes on in a Township, why storm water management merits its own navigational button on our homepage. The reason is that the proper management of storm water is one of the most important functions of the Township. It is one of our most important jobs as it is directly related to the quality of our water. And water quality is important not just for fish and for other wildlife, it is critically important to our own health and welfare.

People have learned not to simply capture storm water from rainfalls and to discharge it into our streams. This is detrimental to us and our environment in a number of ways. This out-dated method of storm water management creates the following damage:

- Fails to recharge our aquifers
- Causes downstream flooding
- Erodes the stream banks and scours the stream bed
- Dumps sediment and pollutants into our streams

People have learned that storm water management not only impacts downstream flooding, but it has great impacts on our environment. One method of storm water management that minimizes the impact of development on the environment is infiltration. London Grove Township has been in the forefront of this type of storm water management and has been requiring it of developments for the past 15 years.

Thus, you will see in our newer developments, infiltration berms, basins and other state-of-the art storm water management devices. They are designed to mimic "Mother Nature" as closely as possible in terms of getting the water back into the ground and in their appearance. When properly designed, constructed and maintained, these features can be attractive amenities in a new neighborhood.

The Township regulates storm water management through two different "programs". The first is through its regulations for new development as mentioned above. The second is through the permit we must maintain with the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through the National Pollution and Discharge Elimination System Phase II (NPDES)/Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This new permit is a Federal requirement that is administered by the different States. The Township is required to not only regulate the activities of developers, but to manage its own storm water facilities in such a way as not to pollute our streams. We must also have an active public participation and education component in the program.

There is yet another storm water "program" that the Township will be most likely required to administer in the next few years. This is another Federal program that is related to those municipalities located in impaired watersheds. London Grove Township is entirely within the White Clay Creek watershed, which in turn is part of the Christina River watershed. It is the Christina River watershed that is impaired and subject to improvement under the Federal program. This program is still being developed by will require the Township to regulate and improve the "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) of various pollutants such as sediments, nitrates and phosphates.

So storm water management is not only critical to our environment, it is critical to our own health and well-being. It is also a complicated matter involving all levels of government, new development and private citizens. In short, it is the responsibility of all of us.

For more information on the Township's storm water management responsibilities and programs, please contact the Township Manager. For more information on storm water management, please use the links below as a starting point to understand the program and see how you can help.