

NORTH YORK BOROUGH MS4 PRESENTATION 2021

The following is a summary of the MS4 presentation given at the North York Borough:

- Presentation is seventh under the Borough's MS4 Stormwater Permit. An overview was given of the permit which consists of the following six Minimum Control Measures:
 - MCM #1: Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts (PEOP)
 - MCM #2: Public Involvement/Participation (PIPP)
 - MCM #3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDD & E)
 - MCM #4: Construction Site Runoff Control
 - MCM #5: Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) in New and Re-Development Activities.
 - MCM #6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

The goal of the Stormwater Management Program, above Minimum Control Measures and the MS4 General Permit is to reduce stormwater pollution in order to improve water quality in the local waterbodies and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The program provides for public education, requests public involvement and provides a means for the Borough to control stormwater discharges within the Borough limits.

- The concentration of this presentation is on control measure #1 public education and outreach and control measure #2 public involvement and participation. It will also touch upon control measure #3 illicit discharge detection and elimination.
- An update was given on the program/permit status. The permit renewal was submitted to DEP on September 14, 2017. The PAG-13 (Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Ms4) Permit was issued on December 22, 2020. North York Borough is a member of the York County Regional Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the York County Regional Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan. This is due to the fact that all participating municipalities are using the same pollution reduction plan to meet the required pollution reductions.

Even though none of the projects are located within the borough, the borough by participating in the group, receives credit for meeting their pollution reduction plan requirements. The borough participating in this regional group comes at a great savings to the borough compared to doing their own plan.

We submitted the 2021 year end report to DEP by September 30, 2021 which covered the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. A copy of the report is available at the borough office.

- With the Borough's adoption of their Stormwater Management Ordinance that is consistent with the York County Model Stormwater Management Ordinance that was approved by DEP per the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act 167. Any Regulated Activity (any earth disturbance activities or any activities that involve the alteration or development of land that may affect stormwater runoff) must address the stormwater runoff rate and volume. Runoff volume is usually addressed by infiltration practices.
- Following the summary of the program status, Public education/outreach was discussed.
- One of the most important aspects of the permit is to educate the public about stormwater and what affects stormwater pollution has on streams, waterways, bays and ultimately oceans. In the lobby of the borough office, there is a bulletin board which is solely dedicated to stormwater information. Copies of any of the information on the bulletin board will be provided upon request. The borough website has also been updated with additional information under stormwater management tab. The borough newsletter also has information on stormwater pollution. There are also several handouts on the table in the back of the room with additional stormwater information.

The purpose of the educational material is to educate people so they understand stormwater pollution and to change the way people are used to doing their everyday chores to prevent and eliminate stormwater pollution.

Most people don't think about stormwater and what impacts are created in streams and rivers once it disappears into the storm sewer. If everyone performs some simple things, it can reduce stormwater pollution, such as cleaning up pet wastes from yards or sidewalks, keeping grass clippings out of the street so they are not washed into the storm sewer, eliminating fluid leaks from vehicles, not overfertilizing lawns, composting, use rain barrels to water plants and gardens, washing vehicles at a commercial car wash or over a lawn area and cleaning up any deicing salts from sidewalks and driveways.

The following are some other resources for stormwater information:

Chesapeake Bay Foundation are expanding a program called "Learn Outside, Learn at Home" which has educational information online on their website.

DEP has established a Clean Water Academy on their website that has courses online to learn more about the MS4 permit and its requirements. The website also has some instructional videos.

- Another important aspect of the program is for the borough to solicit public involvement/participation in the program. Some ways to participate in preventing stormwater pollution are organizing or participating in stormwater inlet stenciling or stream cleanups. Stenciling or stream cleanups can be through volunteers, service projects, community service. (An example of what inlet stencils look like was shown at the meeting.)

Anyone interested in organizing a stream cleanup or stormwater inlet stenciling program should please contact the borough. Some of the borough's inlets have been marked with a metal disk but not all.

The Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation have opportunities available for volunteering. Links to their websites can be found on the borough's website.

York County Coalition for Clean Waters has been formed as part of the county planning commission. They have volunteer opportunities available to participate.

Another source of information and opportunities for volunteering is through the Penn State Extension.

Due to the current Covid situation, volunteer opportunities are limited but educational material is available online.

Reporting of illicit discharges is another important way to provide public participation in the stormwater program. An illicit discharge is any discharge other than stormwater to the borough streets and storm sewer system with some exceptions. If you see anything you suspect to be an illicit discharge, please contact the borough by phone or there is a citizen complaint form at the borough office or available on the borough website that can be filled out and given to the borough. (A copy of the form was shown) The borough will then investigate the complaint and if it was an illicit discharge, will go through the procedures to ensure it is corrected.

If an illicit discharge is encountered by borough personnel that cannot be traced to a source, the borough will utilize a door hanger which describes that an illicit discharge was found in the area, describes what an illicit discharge is and gives ways to prevent illicit discharges. (A sample of the doorhanger was shown.)

The reporting of illicit discharges is an important way to help the borough since the borough has few employees and the chances of them seeing an illicit discharge is small.

The borough does an annual inspection of the actual outfalls to the Codorus Creek and Willis Run but the chances of finding an illicit discharge are small.

An emphasis is placed on not putting yourself in a position of confrontation with an illicit discharge. If needed take pictures and submit with the complaint form. Do not confront anyone.

- Copies of all the information discussed during the presentation was provided at the meeting and will be available from the Borough office or the Borough Engineer. It will be placed on the bulletin board in the Borough office.



PROTECT OUR WATERSHED

KEEP IT CLEAN



DRAINS TO RIVER

What to Do With **? GRASS CLIPPINGS**

Bagging Clippings

PROS: Neater Lawn, Better Surface for Sports, Clearer Striping

CONS: Extra Work to Dispose of Clippings, Remove Minerals from Lawn

Leave Clippings On the Lawn

Return Minerals from Cut Grass, No Need to Dispose of Clippings, Keep Clippings Out of Landfills

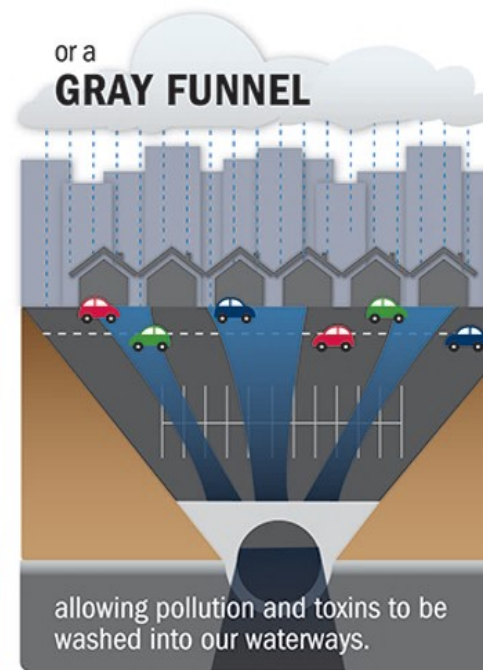
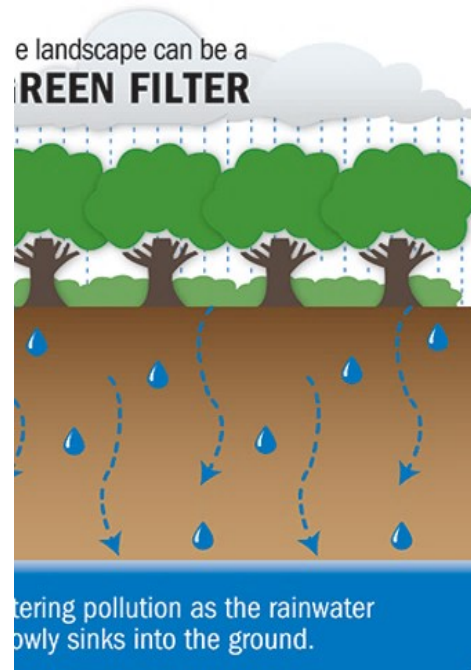
PROS: Less Neat, Clippings Can Be Slippery, Must Mow Often to Avoid Long Clippings

CONS: Slippery, Must Mow Often to Avoid Long Clippings

When NOT to Leave Clippings

- Wet Grass
- After Applying Herbicide
- Clipping Getting Into Storm Drains
- Disease Infested Grass

THE TURFGRASS GROUP, INC.
www.theturfgrassgroup.com



grasscycling

for a low-maintenance lawn

Grass clippings make up a large percentage of the household waste produced each year. About 1,000 square feet of lawn can produce 200 to 500 pounds of clippings during a Pennsylvania growing season.

Grasscycling is a simple alternative to bagging grass clippings. Simply leave the clippings on your lawn, where they break down in 7 to 14 days. The grass clippings act as top-dressing fertilizer and help keep your lawn green and healthy.

grasscycling tips

- ☞ Mow when grass is not wet and use a sharp mower blade.
- ☞ Don't let large clumps of grass clippings accumulate on the lawn.
- ☞ Don't overuse harsh chemicals and fertilizers. Look for organic brands.
- ☞ If possible, use a mulching mower that chops the clippings into smaller pieces.

Use grass clippings as a surface mulch around vegetables or flowers to inhibit weed growth and retain soil moisture. Remember to keep clippings at least two inches away from young plants to avoid burning the new growth with excess nitrogen.

Add grass clippings to your compost pile for extra nutrients and to speed up the composting process. To avoid odors, grass clippings should comprise no more than one-third of the pile.

DEP, Bureau of Waste Management
 Division of Waste Minimization & Planning
 P.O. Box 8472
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8472

guide to home composting

Practice the 4Rs of organic waste management for a healthier yard and garden:

- ☞ **Reduce** yard waste: Grasscycle by leaving grass clippings on the lawn.
- ☞ **Reuse** yard waste: Use leaves as mulch and put brush chip and wood waste to use as ornamental mulch and weed control.
- ☞ **Recycle** yard and food waste: Compost organic wastes to produce mulch and valuable soil conditioner.
- ☞ **Respond** by telling others about the benefits of composting at home.



the basics of home composting

Composting is a natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials - such as leaves, grass and vegetable scraps - to form a rich, soil-like substance.

key elements

- ☞ **Organic Materials** - A good mix of materials for successful composting consists of two parts "browns" (materials such as dead leaves that are high in carbon) and one part "greens" (such as fresh grass clippings and garden prunings that are high in nitrogen).
- ☞ **Moisture** - Composting materials should feel moist like a damp sponge but not overly soggy.
- ☞ **Temperature** - Compost should feel warm to the touch except in cold winter months.
- ☞ **Air** - When materials decompose without oxygen, they can create unpleasant odors. Turn compost regularly to ensure that air reaches the center of the pile.

ingredients

"browns"	"greens"	Microorganism sources
leaves	grass	old compost
dead plants	green weeds	garden soil
straw	manure	farm animal manure
shredded paper	coffee grounds	
shredded twigs	kitchen scraps (non-meat, non-dairy, nonfat)	commercial compost starters
sawdust (untreated wood)		

getting started

A 4'x4' area out of direct sunlight is ideal for a compost pile. Choose an easily accessible spot on a grass or soil base. Composting can begin any time of the year, but it is easy to start in the fall, when leaves are abundant. Mix the ingredients and add water so the materials feel as damp as a wrung-out sponge.

Add a shovelful of garden soil or finished compost to the compost pile. This adds the essential microorganisms needed to break down the waste into compost.

The pile should be turned after a few weeks so that outside ingredients are exchanged with the ingredients from the center of the pile. Turn compost piles about once a month, except in cold winter conditions. If more water is necessary, it can be added during turning.

using compost

Compost is ready for use when it looks dark and crumbly and none of the starting ingredients are visible. One way to test if compost is finished is to seal a small sample in a plastic bag for 24 to 48 hours. If no strong odors are released when you open the bag, the compost is finished and ready to be used.

As a soil amendment, compost increases water retention, adds nutrients and increases soil health. Work it into the top 6 to 8 inches of the soil when planting. Compost can also be applied as a mulch directly around the base of trees and shrubs.

compost troubleshooting

problem	solution
too wet	Turn, add dry material; cover compost
dry, appears dusty	Turn, water, shade compost
cool to the touch	Turn, add "greens"
too warm to the touch, strong odors	Turn, add soil or "browns"; add water
strong odors	Turn; add "browns"

Don't compost:

- ☞ Diseased plants or leaves
- ☞ Plants that have gone to seed
- ☞ Persistent weeds (poison ivy, multiflora rose, blindweed, quackgrass)
- ☞ Meat, dairy products and kitchen vegetables cooked with animal fats.
- ☞ Human or pet feces
- ☞ This brochure—recycle it! After you have read it, pass it on to a friend or shred and compost it.

For more information, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword: Composting.



Stormwater Pollution Found in Your Area!

This is not a citation.

This is to inform you that our staff found the following pollutants in the storm sewer system in your area. This storm sewer system leads directly to

- Motor oil
- Oil filters
- Antifreeze/transmission fluid
- Paint
- Solvent/degreaser
- Cooking grease
- Detergent
- Home improvement waste (concrete, mortar)
- Pet waste
- Yard waste (leaves, grass, mulch)
- Excessive dirt and gravel
- Trash
- Construction debris
- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Other



For more information or to report an illegal discharge of pollutants, please call:



www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

EPA 833-F-03-002
April 2003

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer system or waterbody.

Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged *untreated* into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Remember: Only Rain Down the Drain

To keep the stormwater leaving your home or workplace clean, follow these simple guidelines:

- ◆ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- ◆ Repair auto leaks.
- ◆ Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil, etc.), and batteries at designated collection or recycling locations.
- ◆ Clean up after your pet.
- ◆ Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
- ◆ Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- ◆ Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- ◆ Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.

