

Why is Stormwater Important?

The Township of East Earl is subject to a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) General Permit for Municipal Stormwater Discharge. This permit must be renewed every five years and reports on the progress of the permit must be submitted every September 30th. Those reports document the work done to meet permit requirements for the preceding period of July 1st to June 30th.

You probably have been to one of our yearly Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) training days and other MS4 events. Those are a part of what is required by the PA DEP. This brochure will act as a brief guide for your part of the Township MS4 program.

Township Staff like yourself are involved in all parts of the MS4 program, but the basic components that you will spend the most time on will fall into the following categories:

- Public Education/Public Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Prevention/Detection
- Good Housekeeping of Municipal Properties and Operations

This brochure will go over these tasks, but for more information please feel free to ask the Township Manager or ARRO Staff.

East Earl Township Stormwater Resources

A large part of the MS4 program is keeping Township residents engaged and involved. If a resident asks about more information regarding stormwater events, public meetings, and other public participation opportunities, please direct them to the Township website at the bottom of this page.

The Stormwater Information subpage also contains a list of helpful resources on a variety of stormwater-related topics.



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For Township Staff



ARRO

How to Keep the Public Informed and Involved

Two of the focuses of the Township MS4 permit are public education and public involvement. You are often the face of the Township to the public and can help to keep them up to date and educated on the progress that East Earl makes. Please see the below information on some of the priority points the public should be aware of.

Public Meetings

In order to communicate the Township's progress toward compliance with its stormwater (MS4) permit, stormwater is often discussed at public meetings. It is also where important items such as the Pollutant Reduction Plan and the annual reports for the permit are discussed. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the MS4 progress and make their thoughts known on their priorities.

Public Involvement Events

At a minimum of once a year, East Earl hosts a public involvement event to get the people of the Township to work alongside the municipality to help our waterways. It could be a trash pickup, inlet stenciling, or other similar event. It is important to get the word of these events out to the public so that as many people as possible are involved. As much of this process as possible should be recorded, including pictures and names of those involved, to include in annual reports.

Good Housekeeping

One of the major tasks of the Township MS4 Permit is to make sure that Township staff and operations do not contribute to the problem.

EVERYONE who works for the Township or is even contracted by the Township for a task such as landscaping, if their tasks pose a possible impact on local waterways, must receive training on how to perform their tasks without causing said impact.

For your reference, please see the below example tasks that could result in pollutant runoff:

- Landscaping/Lawn and Grounds Care
- Vehicle Operations and Maintenance
- Leaf and Debris Pickup
- Snow Removal/De-icing

You most likely have already received MS4 training on these tasks, as Township standard operating procedures regarding the use/handling/storage of materials and operation/management of facilities have been created with this in mind.

If you are handling materials or performing tasks and feel that there may be a chance of pollutant runoff, feel free to reach out. Ask your Township Manager or ARRO Consulting for help and advice to keep our waterways clean and our Township permit compliant.

What is Illicit Discharge?

According to the PA DEP, illicit discharge is "any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater..." except certain materials such as water from firefighting activities or clean water from foundation pumps.

The rule of thumb is, only stormwater should go into stormwater drains!

East Earl Township needs the public to help to find and eliminate illicit discharge. Please direct everyone in the Township to report illicit discharge through one of the following options. Call the Township Office during normal business hours or email eastearltwp.org.

Once a report of illicit discharge is made, it needs to be investigated immediately. If the investigation confirms the presence of an illicit discharge, please follow the below directives:

- If it is a hazardous material spill, please call the emergency number **IMMEDIATELY**.
- Record everything, both in writing and take pictures. This includes remediating actions taken.
- Take as many precautions as possible to stop the discharge from reaching the waterways. Then clean the site to remove the discharge.
- Contact ARRO Consulting to see if further action is required.