

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

When it rains or snows, the water soaks into the ground, evaporates back into the atmosphere or runs off. This runoff, also known as stormwater, can have an impact on area flooding and erosion. Less obvious impacts of stormwater runoff include increased water pollution and a reduction in ground water supplies.



In the past stormwater has typically been managed by being collected and directed to the nearest street curb, ditch, or stream. This approach can have a negative impact and become a nuisance on communities who live downstream. Diverting the stormwater to be quickly carried away also impacts groundwater levels since the water has limited opportunities to filter back into the ground.

WHAT IS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT?

Stormwater management involves the control of water that runs off the surface of the land from rain, melting ice or snow. As land development occurs, the volume and rate of runoff increases from the property. The construction of impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots and walkways prevent the rain water from infiltrating back into the soil. The stormwater has typically been collected by drains and directed in pipes and discharged to another location.

Management of stormwater is necessary to limit the impacts that development will have on the local community, such as flooding, erosion, sediment flushing, flow onto adjacent properties, damages to roads and other infrastructure.

WHAT IS MS4?

The Borough of West Hazleton is required to obtain a stormwater discharge permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This permit allows the Borough to operate their storm sewer system, called a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The permit requires the Borough to take certain steps to ensure that the stormwater is properly managed and controlled. The permit also requires that the Borough educate the public about storm water impacts and provide opportunities for the public to get involved and participate in program events.



Recommended Links for More Information

- [EPA - NPDES Facts on Municipal Wastewater](#)
- [EPA - Search the health of your local waterway](#)
- [DEP – MS4 program overview](#)

West Hazleton Borough prepares and submits an annual report on the ongoing efforts to achieve the required stormwater control measures. For more information about the Borough's MS4 program, please contact the office via phone at 570-455-7851