

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

IN SOUTHWESTERN BUTLER COUNTY

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

In undeveloped areas, rainwater and melting snow naturally evaporate, absorb into the ground, or flow into streams. However, in developed areas, pavement and buildings hinder ground absorption. Man-made drainage systems are then used to direct water into streams, rivers, or lakes, known as stormwater runoff. This runoff, untreated, carries pollutants from roofs, vehicles, driveways, patios, and roads into water bodies used for recreation and DRINKING.

WHAT IS EROSION?

Erosion is the process where the top layer of the ground; soil and rocks are worn away, in this case, by stormwater runoff. This increase the pollutants being washed into streams and waterways



WHAT IS A MS4?

MS4 is short for, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. MS4s consists of a loose network of ditches, swales, culverts, catch basins, underground gravity pipes, and headwalls that are designed to drain stormwater away from property and into local waterways without treatment.

WHY DO WE HAVE MS4 PROGRAMS?

MS4 programs were created to keep pollutants out of surface water. The program has 6 minimum control measures:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation/Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

The goal of education and implementation of stormwater management standards is to protect the waters for aquatic life, water supply, recreation and fish consumption, and build support for the stormwater management program and promote environmental engagement in the community.

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Record-breaking rainfalls in recent years have forced municipalities to scramble to find solutions to reduce these impacts. Addressing these issues has been challenging for reasons that include historical development in the floodway and floodplain, lack of project funding and lack of cooperation across political boundaries. Starting in 2019, Evans City, Harmony and Zelenople Boroughs and Jackson Township have been meeting to identify stormwater infrastructure needs and seek necessary funding.

WHY DO WE NEED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT?

The communities in Southwestern Butler County have been negatively affected by flooding and other stormwater impacts, including erosion occurring as the result of intense rainfalls. There has been significant property damage, residents have lost irreplaceable possessions, businesses have lost income and there have been countless hours of cleanup, all while being uncertain of when the storm will next occur and what that impact will be.

Questions? Contact Us

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