

New Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee

The Borough of Chambersburg owns and operates a separate storm sewer system of pipes, inlets, swales and channels. This system under State and Federal law is called a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS4 and, is responsible for carrying all rainwater, runoff, ice melt, etc. through the pipes and channels down to the Falling Spring and the Conococheague Creek.



As complex and extensive as this is, the Borough of Chambersburg has never had a dedicated department to maintain the system or to ensure that we have funding to pay for maintenance and upgrades. Up to this point, the Borough had done whatever was possible to manage issues pertaining to our MS4. In 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) renewed the Borough's MS4 permit but established a stringent set of new rules for proper management of the system based on Federal law.

To be in compliance with DEP, to ensure that the Borough is addressing the health of our environment, and to focus on the needs of our community in a timely, systematic and cost effective manner, we are establishing a new MS4 Department; which will be operational in 2015 and be responsible for any and all issues directly related to stormwater management.

New fee: When the 2015 Borough of Chambersburg budget was approved, the Borough had approximately 8,092 sanitary sewer connections. These customers are billed for their sanitary sewage. The 2015 budget has approved a new fee using the sanitary sewer charges as a guide. The new line item, which will appear on your Borough bill, is a **STORM SEWER POLLUTION CONTROL FEE**.

Staff believes it is reasonable to assume that any property with a sanitary sewer hookup has been developed with impervious cover such as buildings, driveways and parking lots. So, whoever pays the sanitary sewer bill, will now also be required to pay the Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee.

When the storm sewer utility is created in January 2015, Council has authorized this separate monthly Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee of **\$3 per sanitary sewer connection**. All of these proceeds will be dedicated to the storm sewer system and stormwater management.

In most cases, there is one sanitary sewer connection for each developed property street address; however, there are developed properties in the Borough with multiple sanitary sewer connections. For example, a single-family dwelling has one sanitary sewer connection that would be charged \$36 per year. A commercial building or shopping center may accommodate 12 separate units, each with their own sanitary sewer connection that would be charged \$36 per year, for a total annual stormwater service fee of \$432 for that particular building.

If you have any questions about the new **Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee**, call Jason Cohen, Finance Director, at 261-3248 or jcohen@chambersburgpa.gov

If you have any questions about the **MS4 Permit** or the **MS4 Department**, call Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager, at 261-3232 or pwolgemuth@chambersburgpa.gov

The Borough storm sewer system is comprised of the following:

Number of catch basins: 1,983

Total length (feet or miles) of storm sewer pipes: 276,612 feet or 52.39 miles

Total length (feet or miles) of storm sewer open channels: 77,109 feet or 14.60 miles

Number of detention basins: 55

Number of subsurface detention areas: 13

Number of outfalls to Conococheague Creek and Falling Spring Creek: 108

By Local Law, a new Chambersburg Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Department was founded in 2015. It is committed to a fundamental objective to comply with the requirements of the MS4 permit, to improve water quality and groundwater recharge through education, coordination, development, maintenance, and best management practices (BMP) associated through stormwater management in an efficient and cost effective manner that considers the needs for protection of public health, private property, the natural environment, and economic development.

Our MS4 Permit requires the Borough to operate a stormwater management program to address:

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater impacts, system rules, illicit discharges (such as blowing grass into the street) and BMP they can do on their own property (i.e. rain gardens)
2. Public involvement and participation, such as school assemblies and public meetings
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination through law enforcement
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control through the Franklin County Conservation District
5. Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
6. Pollution prevention and good housekeeping
7. Evaluate storm sewer system maintenance needs and establish a capital improvements plan
8. Enforce the Chambersburg Floodplain Management Ordinance
9. Evaluate areas prone to flooding and established corrective measures
10. Implement our new Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan, when approved by DEP

In the future, the storm sewer utility rate structure will change from a flat fee as it will be in 2015 to a fee not based upon sanitary sewer connections but, based upon impervious surface of each lot.

The Borough encompasses 4,434.99 acres with approximately 2,555.47 acres (57.62%) of pervious area and approximately 1,879.52 acres (42.38%) of impervious cover. Of the impervious cover, approximately 571.67 acres (30.42%) is covered with buildings, approximately 401.62 acres (21.36%) is covered with streets (Borough, State Routes and private) and approximately 417.11 acres (22.19%) is covered with parking lots. The remaining 489.12 acres (26.03%) is covered with items such as sidewalks, concrete slabs, swimming pools and decks that were not incorporated into the previously noted categories.

One of the first activities of the new department will be to map and survey the existing Borough, every lot, and make a detailed estimate of the exact amount of impervious surfaces in the Borough.

Someday, the Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee will be based upon this survey and how much paved or impervious surface exists on an average lot and on your lot in particular. We estimate this survey will take a few years. In the future, a property owner will also get credit from the Borough by installing BMP to reduce the amount or improve the quality of stormwater generated on their property. This will help encourage good stormwater management.

In the meantime, using the flat fee approved by Town Council, the Borough of Chambersburg will set about to establish the new utility, be fair, and begin compliance with our MS4 permit.

If you have any questions about the **impervious surfaces or best management practices**, call Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager, at 261-3232 or pwolgemuth@chambersburgpa.gov