



Strict federal regulations requiring the Township to reduce polluted streams and an aging stormwater infrastructure system are creating enormous burdens on the Township. To address the requirements imposed on the Township, and to fund the continual maintenance and repair of the existing stormwater infrastructure, the Township is proposing to transfer the infrastructure to the Susquehanna Township Authority (STA) and to impose a Stormwater Program Fee.

The fee is an equitable, fair, and low-cost solution. Revenue raised through the fee will be dedicated to essential infrastructure repairs and improvements to the watershed.



Clogged storm water outlets and broken pipes and structures create pollute the streams and reduce water quality.

Why is Susquehanna Township instituting a Stormwater Program Fee? The Township faces numerous challenges that are driving the implementation of a fee.

Challenge #1: Polluted streams - The Susquehanna River, Paxton Creek, and other local waterways are considered impaired.

Challenge #2: Tightening regulations

- MS4 Permit requires the implementation of a Pollutant Reduction Plan over the next 5 years.
- 2018 MS4 Permit requires Township to have funding and staffing necessary to fully comply with increased regulations, including BMP installation.
- A growing number of communities are being fined for non-compliance with regulations.

Challenge #3: Aging infrastructure

- Roughly 530,000 linear feet of pipe & 5,300 inlets
- A significant portion of pipe and facilities anticipated to reach its useful life over the next 10-20 years.

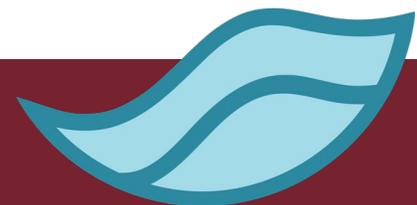
Challenge #4: Increased development - Large amounts of impervious areas have resulted in more stormwater and flooding.

Challenge #5: Level funding - Historically, the Township has funded stormwater costs through tax revenues, which have remained relatively stable despite growing costs.

Who is being charged the Stormwater Program Fee? All property owners within the municipal boundaries of Susquehanna Township will be billed based on the impervious area on a property. Impervious area is defined as a surface that is covered or compacted to an extent as to impede the natural infiltration of water [rain] into the ground. Studies show the amount of impervious area is the most accurate, equitable, and scientific way to determine a property's stormwater impacts. Vacant properties with limited or no impervious will still receive a bill.

How did you come up with the cost of the Stormwater Program Fee? The fee is the result of discussions between Susquehanna Township, STA, its consulting engineers, and stakeholders. The importance of stormwater management to public health, safety, and welfare; desired level of service; mandated regulatory obligations; as well as existing and anticipated stormwater needs were comprehensively evaluated and considered. Total stormwater costs were divided by the amount of impervious area to calculate a fee based on 1,000 square feet of impervious area.

How did you determine what I owe? The fee is based on the total amount of impervious area on your property. For a typical homeowner, that would include the house, porches, patios, walkways, and driveways.



How much will the fee be for property owners? The following fee schedule has been established:

Tier	Impervious Area (IA) Range (sq. ft)	Quarterly Charge
1	0-499	\$4.80
2	500-1,999	\$17.10
3	2,000-4,499	\$34.80
4	4,500-6,999	\$57.30
5	Over 7,000	\$9.60 per 1,000 sq. ft. IA + \$4.80

How was impervious area data for property's collected? Susquehanna Township commissioned a flight to take aerial photographs of the entire Township. This data was processed into impervious surface layers and separated by the type of surface (i.e., stone, concrete, asphalt, etc.). Calculations of the impervious surface for individual properties were developed using Dauphin County parcel data.

When should I expect my first bill? Implementation of billing is expected to occur in Summer 2020.

Doesn't the Township already have a stormwater system in place? Nothing has changed on my property, so why will I be charged now? While the Township's stormwater system has been in place for decades, there is an increased emphasis on stormwater management in recent years. New and revised state and federal regulations require a comprehensive stormwater quality and management program. The stormwater program fee ensures that STA can financially support its responsibilities to manage the stormwater system more closely, identify and eliminate illegal discharges, provide public education, and meet other regulatory requirements. The fee will also cover

the cost for increased inspection and maintenance of aging infrastructure, implementation of flood reduction projects, and the ability to replace infrastructure that's reached the end of its useful life.

Where does the money collected from the Stormwater Program Fee go? All stormwater revenue will be placed into a dedicated fund used only for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the stormwater management system. The funds will cover costs associated with the following:

- Operation and Maintenance of Stormwater Infrastructure: STA is responsible for the operation and maintenance of roughly 530,000 linear feet of stormwater pipeline, 5,300 inlets, and related infrastructure. Maintenance of these facilities is necessary to reduce flooding, improve public safety, and extend the useful life of the asset.
- Regulatory Compliance: The Township is required by state and federal regulations to reduce stormwater pollution and improve water quality for local streams.
- Capital Improvement Projects: Over \$13 million in stormwater improvement needs has been identified through planning efforts. Capital improvement planning will ensure dollars are invested in cost-effective solutions to protect citizens and the environment.

There are no storm sewers on or near my property. Why should I pay a fee? All properties produce stormwater runoff that contributes to pollution and flooding downstream. Even if your property has never flooded or there are no nearby storm sewers, the stormwater that flows off your property must be managed. Stormwater management is a community-wide service that benefits the whole Township, and the program costs need to be distributed to all users. All property owners benefit from the

WHAT IS IMPERVIOUS SURFACE?

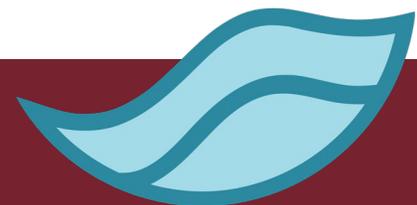
Impervious surface refers to any surface that water cannot soak into asphalt (streets), concrete (sidewalks), highly compacted crushed stone and gravel, and rooftops. When water cannot soak into the ground, it either sits in one place or moves along to a place where it can soak into the ground or be collected. As it moves along these hard surfaces, it gathers pollutants like trash, oil, brake dust, fertilizer, salt, and pet waste.

Impervious surfaces cover approximately 25% of Susquehanna Township.

control of stormwater along public streets, which they travel. The fee will also help cover other services provided by STA, such as MS4 system maintenance and permit compliance. Property owners who manage the majority of stormwater onsite will still pay a fee to help cover the additional services provided by STA beyond their property lines. STA has developed a credit policy for onsite stormwater management activities, which are eligible for credits.

How is this different from a tax? All properties generate stormwater runoff and should pay the stormwater fee; however, some properties are exempt from taxes. Unlike taxes, which are used for general services that the Township provides, the revenue from the stormwater fee can only be used for stormwater management. It cannot be redirected for other uses.

Why not just include the stormwater program costs in our property taxes? The stormwater fee is based on the amount of impervious area rather than the assessed value, so the cost is shifted to the properties that create more stormwater runoff. There is no



BY THE NUMBERS

Susquehanna Township is responsible for maintaining the system that conveys stormwater to the streams, as well as the water quality and quantity entering the streams.



1,023 outfalls



5,300 inlets



200,500 linear feet of streams



508,000 linear feet of roads



530,300 linear feet of storm pipe

correlation between assessed values and the amount of impervious surface on a given property, which makes it unfair to base the stormwater fee on the assessed value of the properties. Because the Township is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, it is required to reduce the volume of stormwater and improve the quality of stormwater that flows into the streams and eventually to the Bay. It will be difficult and expensive for STA to accomplish this objective. An advantage of a fee-based system is that we can offer credits to property owners who reduce the quantity of stormwater or improve the quality of stormwater leaving their property. We cannot give a credit with a tax-based system.

Does everyone in the Township pay the fee, including non-profits? All property owners who own property in the Township must pay the fee. Non-profits will pay because it is a fee and not a property tax. The Stormwater

Program Fee is based on how much a property contributes to stormwater runoff. Tax-exempt properties are required to pay for other utility charges, including electric, water, and sanitary sewer. The stormwater system is a utility no different than other utilities.

Is there a way to reduce my fee? Yes. STA's Stormwater Program Fee will allow for credits. Credits are a monthly percent reduction in the Stormwater Program Fee for having and maintaining infrastructure that reduces the quantity of stormwater or improves the quality of stormwater leaving a property. Applications for credits are available on the Township's website.

How will properties be billed? For those properties with an existing sanitary sewer bill from STA, the Stormwater Program Fee will appear as a separate line item on your existing bill. For those without a current sewer bill from STA, a new monthly stormwater bill will be issued.

Why should I pay for rain falling on my property? Property owners are not being charged for rain falling on a property, but for runoff that is discharged into the Township's stormwater system when it does rain. When rain falls on an impervious area, it collects all sorts of pollutants, such as oil, grease, fertilizers, and sediments. There is a direct correlation between the quantity of pollutants contained in stormwater and the amount of impervious area on a property. That stormwater - and all the contaminants it collects - eventually makes its way to the Township's stormwater management system, which includes the Susquehanna River.



Oil from cars washes into the storm drain from the road and pollutes the stream.

What is the big deal about stormwater runoff? How harmful can rain be? It's not necessarily the rain itself that's harmful. It's the volume of water flow coming from impervious areas, which picks up waste and pollutants after it hits the roofs, driveways, roads, parking lots, and other impervious areas in developed communities.

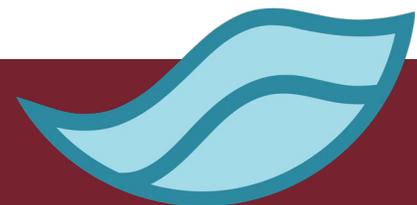
Even pervious areas like grass lawns or landscaped areas can contribute to the pollutants found in stormwater runoff. Here are some common pollutants found in or carried by stormwater runoff:

- Sediments (sand, silt, dirt)
- Vegetation (leaves, grass clippings)
- Litter
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Animal/pet waste
- Oil & Fuel
- Phosphates (i.e., from soap used in car or pet washing)

We have found all sorts of things in our ditches and outfalls - basketballs, inflatable pools, 'For Sale' signs, tires, shopping carts...you name it! Vegetative debris like grass clippings and leaves can clog pipes and inlets.

It is AGAINST THE LAW to use storm drains or ditches for dumping! What goes into our storm drains and ditches eventually impacts our entire stormwater system and our environment. So remember, 'ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN.'

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP AT 717.545.4751 OR VISIT SUSQUEHANNATWP.COM/STORMWATER



Why should I pay if there is no stormwater inlet/ditch/curb in front of my property or I'm on a private road?

Properties on private roads - whether they are dirt roads or behind gates - are still subject to the Township's stormwater fee. While maintenance of private roads is the responsibility of the abutting property owners, the Township is responsible for the pollutants in the runoff that comes from private roads.

Streambank erosion causes sediment to enter the stream.



My property retains water/doesn't discharge to the Township's system.

Why should I pay? The stormwater fee is based on the impervious area on a property because that impervious area is what generates the runoff that carries pollutants. The Township's stormwater system must manage that runoff. Rain and runoff may be absorbed by bare ground during light rain events, but properties still discharge runoff during heavier rain events. Charging the fee according to impervious area ensures that everyone who is contributing to the stormwater system pays their fair share to support it. It is also essential to keep in mind that the Township is also responsible for the runoff from commonly used public areas, like streets and highways.

Will I get a discount or refund if it doesn't rain?

The stormwater fee isn't just about a singular rain event. Maintenance and improvements to the Township's stormwater system happen all year-round, rain or shine. It is vitally important that we continually work to keep our system functioning so that when it does rain, our streets and homes

don't flood. Protecting our environment is a year-round effort, too. Treating stormwater runoff after a storm is just one component of a broader program to improve the health of our natural waterways.

Is there any way to get my stormwater fee discounted or reduced? There are a few ways to have your stormwater fee changed:

- Adjustments based on incorrect fee charges/calculations
- Credits for providing facilities or services that support or enhance the Township's stormwater system

Everyone in Susquehanna Township benefits from the Township's stormwater system. Proper maintenance ensures the system keeps public roads and rights of way passable. Upgrades to the system will help in the effort to improve the health of the Paxton Creek, Susquehanna River, and other natural waterways.

Why am I getting charged for stormwater when I'm on septic?

The stormwater fee has nothing to do with potable (drinking) water or wastewater, or whether you're on sewer or have a septic tank. Stormwater is rain. The Stormwater Program Fee includes services the Township provides in controlling, storing, and treating the community's stormwater runoff, which is more significant coming from developed properties.

I pay my Homeowners Association (HOA) to maintain our stormwater system. Why do I have to pay the Township for the same service?

The fee you pay to your Homeowners (or Business) Association is to maintain the facilities that are solely the HOA's responsibility by the approved plan. The Township is responsible for ensuring that the runoff that comes from developments, public roads, and other properties is controlled and transported in a safe, effective manner. STA recognizes the benefits of privately maintained systems and has

Proper stormwater management is a vital infrastructure asset that protects public health, properties, and downstream waterways from adverse effects that can result from stormwater runoff.

established a credit policy that allows property owners to seek discounts for structures (such as ponds), programs, and services that help to improve the Township's stormwater management system.

My neighborhood has a stormwater pond and HOA fees to maintain it. Can you provide a credit to my HOA to reduce our HOA fees?

STA developed a credit policy to reduce fees. It is worthwhile to consider that neighborhoods with existing stormwater retention or detention ponds still contribute runoff and pollution to the overall stormwater system which STA maintains. The program is a community-wide service, and all Township residents benefit from STA's stormwater infrastructure, public streets, and streams, so the cost needs to be distributed to all the users. If infrastructure installed and maintained by the HOA exceeds the requirements of the Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance, then it may be eligible for the credit.

