

What Is The Back Mountain Community Partnership?

Formed in 2008, the BMCP is a group of 7 municipalities from the Back Mountain region of Luzerne County, who joined together in an effort to share resources and improve their communities.

Those included in this partnership are: Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships; and the boroughs of Dallas and Harveys Lake.

The BMCP is dedicated to environmental sustainability, and one of their goals is to achieve MS4 compliance.

What Is MS4?

A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4, refers to the network of pipes, storm drains and channels within a community that collects and conveys stormwater to a local water source.

Why Manage Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff causes flooding and pollutes local water sources. Under the Clean Water Act, the PA Department of Environmental Protection regulates stormwater management in MS4 communities to minimize these impacts on our watersheds.



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Credits & Resources

The Homeowners Guide to Stormwater

- ◆ stormwaterguide.org

Back Mountain Community Partnership Information

- ◆ nepa-alliance.org/government/local-government-assistance/

Watershed and Stormwater Information

- ◆ extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/watershed-education/watersheds-faqs
- ◆ extension.psu.edu/water/stormwater-management
- ◆ dep.pa.gov
- ◆ epa.gov/npdes/integrated-planning-municipal-stormwater-and-wastewater
- ◆ chesapeakestormwater.net
- ◆ luzernecd.org



Image Credit:
Amanda Blaine | MWS Volunteer

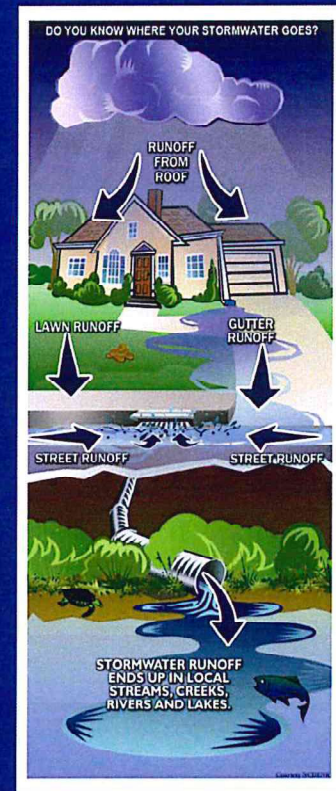


PennState Extension

Master Watershed Steward Program

Everybody Lives Downstream

How You Can Help Protect Your Local Watershed



What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the drainage area for a body of water such as a stream, lake or river system.

Local waterways include: Francis Slocum Lake, Harveys Lake, Hunlock Creek, Toby Creek...and many more!

All of these local water sources empty into the Susquehanna—the largest river to drain entirely into the Chesapeake Bay.



What You Can Do! Landscaping Solutions That Help Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Rain Barrels



Image Credit:
Elizabeth Rossor | Extension Educator

Rain barrels are usually the size of 55 gallon drums and are repurposed to capture stormwater from roofs through a downspout. Water is saved in the barrel for later use in the garden or for slow release. (This water is NOT safe to drink!)

Planting Trees

Trees help slow down stormwater runoff. They work to capture and absorb rainwater, filter out pollutants, and infiltrate water back into the ground.

A single mature oak tree can absorb and evaporate over 40,000 gallons of water through its leaves each year!

Native Plants

An area planted with native grasses/wildflowers will absorb more water during rain events than a typical lawn with compacted soil and shallow roots.



Image Credit:
Amanda Blaine | MWS Volunteer

Rain Garden

A rain garden is planted in a low-lying area to capture, filter and absorb rainwater. Rain gardens can filter motor oil residue which comes from driveways or capture the rain from your roof!

Simple Ways You Can Keep Stormwater Free of Pollutants

Fertilizers & Pesticides

Read labels correctly and apply the appropriate amount according to the manufacturer's directions. Contact your local Penn State Extension office for assistance. Excessive use of these chemicals can increase pollution in our waterways.

Car Washing

When you wash your car in the driveway, all that grime and detergent enters the stormwater system through storm drains. Instead, wash your car on the lawn or visit a local car wash where the water is recycled after use.

Pet Waste

Pick up after your dog and remove pet waste from your lawn for proper disposal, just as you would in a park.



What Is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater comes from precipitation and melting snow. While much of this water is absorbed into the ground in a natural environment, this is not always the case in developed areas. In a major storm event, excess runoff flows across the land and into waterways. Land use, steep slopes and paved areas all affect the quality of this stormwater runoff.

Why Is Stormwater Runoff A Problem?

Stormwater runoff can impact our homes and communities. During heavy rainfall events, flooding and erosion can occur. Stormwater also contributes to the pollution in our waterways. As rain falls, it picks up various contaminants along its path. Pet waste, litter, motor fluids, fertilizers, and soil are just some examples of the pollutants that enter our waterways through stormwater.