

City of Beaver Falls – Stormwater Program

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

“Stormwater” means rain, snow melt, and other surface runoff and drainage.

WHY DOES THE CITY OF BEAVER FALLS HAVE A STORMWATER PROGRAM?

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. Polluted stormwater runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. Common pollutants include oil and grease from roadways, pesticides from lawns, sediment from construction sites, and carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles. When deposited into nearby waterways through MS4 discharges, these pollutants can impair the waterways, thereby discouraging recreational use of the resource, contaminating drinking water supplies, and interfering with the habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM CONSIST OF?

The program has 6 distinct parts:

1. **Public Education and Outreach**
Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted stormwater runoff discharges can have on water quality.
2. **Public Participation/Involvement**
Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation.
3. **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**
Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system (includes developing a system map and informing the community about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste).
4. **Construction Site Runoff Control**
Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb 1 or more acres of land (controls could include silt fences and temporary stormwater detention ponds).
5. **Post-Construction Runoff Control**
Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) or the use of structural BMPs such as grassed swales or porous pavement.
6. **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**
Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program includes municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques (e.g., regular street sweeping, responsible vehicle maintenance, regular catch-basin cleaning).

WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW:

The City is in the process of developing procedures and documentation for the above described program. Input from City residents is welcome during this process.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Pass on information about the stormwater program to other community residents
- Report any storm water issues or illegal dumping to the City Office
- Provide feedback to the City about stormwater concerns in your neighborhood
- Volunteer to help

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>

GIVE CITY OF BEAVER FALLS INPUT AND FEEDBACK:

I HAVE THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS ABOUT STORMWATER IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD:

I HAVE THE FOLLOWING FEEDBACK FOR THE CITY CONCERNING THE STORMWATER PROGRAM:

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO HELP BY:

- COMMUNITY CLEANUP
- OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT INFO: _____

(email address or phone number)

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CITY OFFICE IF YOU HAVE STORMWATER FEEDBACK OR IF YOU ARE INTERESTING IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER