

## Stormwater Planning and Management #19



### Introduction

Stormwater, the water runoff produced by precipitation events such as rain or snowmelt, must be carefully managed. As it travels across various surfaces, stormwater can accumulate pollutants, debris, and other contaminants, which make their way into rivers, lakes, and eventually oceans. Effective management of stormwater is key to preventing flooding, protecting water quality, and maintaining a healthy environmental balance. This process involves a combination of infrastructure, policy, planning, and community engagement to address the challenges posed by stormwater.



In municipalities across Pennsylvania, stormwater management is an important element for planning and preparation. Local governments are tasked with implementing effective strategies to manage runoff, which includes upgrading infrastructure, enforcing regulations, and promoting sustainable practices. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) oversees these efforts, providing guidelines and support for municipalities to reduce flooding, prevent erosion, and protect water quality. These measures not only mitigate environmental impacts but also contribute to the resilience and sustainability of Pennsylvania's communities.

### What is stormwater and why does stormwater planning matter?

- Primers on stormwater, what it is, its effects and what can be done to address these issues
  - From California - [What the Heck is Storm Water Runoff? - Stormwater How To \(youtube.com\)](#)
  - From Clean Water Education Partnership - [CWEP Introduction to Stormwater Runoff Video \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Stormwater and public health
  - Article in the *American Journal of Public Health* that summarizes the impacts to public health from inadequate stormwater management, including costs.  
[Public Health Effects of Inadequately Managed Stormwater Runoff \(aphapublications.org\)](#)
- Stormwater planning basics, guides and case studies
  - Resources from the US Environmental Protection Agency to assist in stormwater planning.  
[Stormwater Planning | US EPA](#)

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- Funding stormwater infrastructure projects
  - Article from the National Governor's Association related to the public costs of stormwater and how different funding mechanisms can be used to assist in stormwater management

[NGA Stormwater Equity January2022.pdf](#)

### Who can assist me in learning about stormwater planning in my municipality?

- Municipal Engineer – will often be the most familiar with the requirements of a local ordinance, its implementation, and how the local ordinance relates to and interacts with other programs.

- County Conservation District – manages programs to regulate stormwater associated with construction activities; many in urban and suburban areas also have knowledgeable staff involved in municipal stormwater management.

[County Conservation Districts](#)

- Municipal/County Planning Commission – manages and reviews planning efforts for a municipality or a county; will have detailed knowledge of different plans, how they related to one another, and how they are implemented; works with the municipal engineer to assure implementation of the plans via ordinance, policy or other authority.

#### Resources:

- Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC)
  - The statewide municipal set of rules that governs local planning for most municipalities. Storm drainage, storm water facilities, floodplains and other related terms are mentioned in numerous areas including in comprehensive planning, zoning and land use regulation.
  - [PA Municipalities Planning Code \(MPC\) 2022](#)
- Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of 1978 (Act 167)
  - Introduction to Act 167 Stormwater Planning
    - PA Department of Environmental Protection has an online course and materials to learn about what is included in an Act 167 Plan; the process for developing and adopting an Act 167 Plan; and resources for municipalities and counties to use to fund these efforts.
    - [Course: Introduction to Act 167 \(remote-learner.net\)](#)
  - Stormwater Management Implementation Guide for Municipal Officials
    - Guide developed by HRG, Inc. for municipalities in the Crawford, Erie, Venango and Warren Counties to assist municipal officials in implementing Act 167 Plans.
    - [SWM Implementation Guide for Municipal Officials \(eriecountypa.gov\)](#)

**Efficient stormwater management in Pennsylvania is essential for safeguarding the state's water resources and ensuring the health and safety of residents.**