

## Understanding the MS4 Program

A presentation explaining the MS4 program (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) was presented by our Township Engineer during the June 21, 2017 Board of Supervisors meeting. A brief summary of the MS4 program requirements are outlined below.

**What is the MS4 Program?** Municipalities throughout the country are under a federal mandate to develop a stormwater management program to reduce pollution impacts from stormwater runoff. An MS4 is made up of drainage systems including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ponds, ditches, man-made channels and storm pipes owned by a state, county, city, town, township, borough or other public entity. Polluted runoff is often transported through municipal drainage systems until it eventually discharges into streams, lakes, and rivers untreated.

MS4 Programs are intended to improve our nation's surface waters by reducing the quantities of pollutants that are picked up by runoff and transported into the storm sewer systems during rainfall events. As part of the MS4 Program, municipalities hold a permit to discharge storm water into local waterways. Upper Nazareth Township was issued an MS4 Permit through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. This permit requires Upper Nazareth Township to implement and maintain a storm water management program that (1) reduces the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible; (2) protects water quality; and (3) satisfies the water quality requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act.

The MS4 program has six elements termed "minimum control measures" that when implemented should result in significant reduction in pollutants discharged into receiving waters. The six minimum control measures include the following:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post Construction Stormwater Management (in New Development and Redevelopment)
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping—**YOU CAN HELP!**



*This may seem like a daunting task but every little bit helps. On a daily basis, we can all do our share. Here are just a few suggestions:*

- Never dump anything into storm drains, swales or streams.
- Instead of hosing your car off in the driveway, use a commercial car wash.
- Use a salt-free deicer like "SafePaw" instead of rock salt.
- Recycle motor oil, paint, and other hazardous chemicals. Never dump such materials down the drain or into the storm system.
- Always pick up your pet's waste so harmful bacteria can't get into our water!

*Keep your eyes and ears out for more information in future newsletters, on our website, and public meeting announcements as we continue to work our way toward developing a program to keep pollution out of our waterways.*