

Why is Stormwater Important?

The Borough of Spring Grove is subject to a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) General Permit for Municipal Stormwater Discharge. This permit must be renewed every five years and reports on the progress of the permit must be submitted every September 30th. Those reports document the work done to meet permit requirements for the preceding period of July 1st to June 30th.

You probably have been to one of our yearly Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Training days and other MS4 events. Those are a part of what is required by the PA DEP. This brochure will act as a brief guide for your part of the Borough MS4 program.

Borough Staff like yourself are involved in all parts of the MS4 program, but the basic components that you will spend the most time on will fall into the following categories:

- Public Education/Public Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Prevention/Detection
- Good Housekeeping of Municipal Properties and Operations

This brochure will go over these tasks, but for more information please feel free to ask the Borough Manager or ARRO Staff.

Spring Grove Borough Stormwater Resources

A large part of the MS4 program is keeping the Borough residents engaged and involved. If a resident asks about more information regarding stormwater events, public meetings, and other public participation opportunities, please direct them to the Borough website at the bottom of this page.

The MS4 subpage also contains links to the Borough's annual stormwater reports, ordinances, an educational survey, and other information on a variety of stormwater-related topics.

Spring Grove Borough Office
1 Campus Avenue
Spring Grove, PA 17362

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(717) 225-5791
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springgroveborough.com/contact-us
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www.springgroveboro.com



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For Borough Staff



ARRO

How to Keep the Public Informed and Involved

Two of the focuses of the Borough MS4 permit are public education and public involvement. You are often the face of the Borough to the public and can help to keep them up to date and educated on the progress that Spring Grove makes. Please see the below information on some of the priority points the public should be aware of.

Public Meetings

At every Borough Council meeting, MS4 is discussed, including the progress made last month and what is planned for the coming month. It is also where important items such as the Pollutant Reduction Plan and the annual reports for the permit are discussed. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the MS4 progress and make their thoughts known on their priorities.

Public Involvement Events

At a minimum of once a year, Spring Grove hosts a public involvement event to get the people of the Borough to work alongside the municipality to help our waterways. It could be a trash pickup, inlet stenciling, or other similar event. It is important to get the word of these events out to the public so that as many people as possible are involved. As much of this process as possible should be recorded, including pictures and names of those involved, to include in annual reports.

Good Housekeeping

One of the major tasks of the Borough MS4 Permit is to make sure that Borough staff and operations do not contribute to the problem.

EVERYONE who works for the Borough or is even contracted by the Borough for a task such as landscaping, if their tasks pose a possible impact on local waterways, must receive training on how to perform their tasks without causing said impact.

For your reference, please see the below example tasks that could result in pollutant runoff:

- Landscaping/Lawn and Grounds Care
- Vehicle Operations and Maintenance
- Leaf and Debris Pickup
- Snow Removal/De-icing

You most likely have already received MS4 training on these tasks, as Borough standard operating procedures regarding the use/handling/storage of materials and operation/management of facilities have been created with this in mind.

If you are handling materials or performing tasks and feel that there may be a chance of pollutant runoff, feel free to reach out. Ask your Borough Manager or ARRO Consulting for help and advice to keep our waterways clean and our Borough permit compliant.

What is Illicit Discharge?

According to the PA DEP, illicit discharge is “any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater...” except certain materials such as water from firefighting activities or clean water from foundation pumps.

The rule of thumb is, **only stormwater should go into stormwater drains!**

Spring Grove Borough needs the public to help to find and eliminate illicit discharge. Please direct everyone in the Borough to report illicit discharge through one of the following options. Call the Borough Office during normal business hours or fill out a report on the Borough website.

Once a report of illicit discharge is made, it needs to be investigated immediately. If the investigation confirms the presence of an illicit discharge, please follow the below directives:

- If it is a hazardous material spill, please call the emergency number **IMMEDIATELY**.
- Record everything, both in writing and take pictures. This includes remediating actions taken.
- Take as many precautions as possible to stop the discharge from reaching the waterways. Then clean the site to remove the discharge.
- Contact ARRO Consulting to see if further action is required.