



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Hanover Borough has completed the process of forming a Stormwater Authority. This shift in organizational structure will create a **single entity in the Borough tasked with the implementation of the Borough's Stormwater Management Program**. Operating much like a Sewer or Water Authority would, the Authority will be staffed with appointed council and community members and **will have a separate budget, funded by the collection of a utility fee (starting in early 2019)**. The fee will be based on the overall program costs and will be equitably distributed using the amount of impervious area on a property. The Authority will provide stormwater services to include but not be limited to **maintenance and improvements** to the Borough's storm sewer system, **compliance** with the Borough's mandated PA DEP MS4 permit and **community engagement** on stormwater matters and projects.

1 How will the fee be used?

The fee will be placed into a dedicated (enterprise) fund that can ONLY be used by the Authority for the municipality's stormwater program for maintenance, management, and improvement of the Borough's infrastructure and runoff reduction projects. This is a specific requirement of the law that allows the Borough to form an Authority and collect the fee. Collected funds are invested back into the Borough as a community to not only meet obligations, but to improve water quality and ensure clean, safe waterways for future generations.

2 Why did the Borough form a Stormwater Authority?

The Borough has obligations from PA DEP to fulfill certain water quality requirements as part of its MS4 Permit (which is an EPA mandate). Further, the Borough has a growing need to proactively address capital improvement projects regarding miles of aged storm sewer piping and systems that are at, or past, their intended design life. Previously, costs for these items were pulled from a "reserve" fund as needed. This is not a sustainable or equitable approach to funding stormwater. As such, the Borough is legally enabled by the state to form an Authority and address stormwater needs much like a sewer authority does for sanitary sewer program costs and needs.

3 I'm tax exempt; do I still have to pay?

Yes. In order for the Authority's fee structure to be "equitable", it is only appropriate that everyone contributes. This is not a tax. This is a utility fee for program costs, similar to the way in which a water and/or sewer bill charges for your usage to pay for system maintenance and updates. Since it is not technically or cost feasible to physically measure the amount of runoff, the stormwater utility fee is based on the degree of impervious coverage on your property, (which is directly related to runoff,) to determine your charges.

4 Will I receive separate bills for each parcel of land I own?

Possibly. Adjacent parcels, under common ownership of a primary parcel, will be grouped as much as possible to consolidate the number of bills generated. For those individuals or entities owning various (improved) parcels, each will have their own billing. All fees will be distributed through a water and sewer bill, or on a stand-alone bill if the parcel is not currently serviced with water. For properties with multiple water meters on a single parcel, the billing will be reported on only one of those accounts.

5 If I was required to implement a stormwater facility to capture runoff, am I still charged the same amount, if anything?

Yes. You will be charged the same. The facility you installed was to meet other legal obligations of the Borough for stormwater, related to improvement of the land. The Borough was required by PADEP to update the Stormwater Management Ordinance in 2015, to expand water quality controls. The fee is based on an average impervious coverage for residential class while actual individual coverage was calculated for any other use (beside single family residential). The fee includes other services as well, such as street sweeping, inlet and pipe maintenance, infrastructure improvements to address flooding problems, etc. *A credit program is anticipated to be discussed in the future to potentially reduce your fee.*

6 Don't my taxes pay for this already?

No. In the past, stormwater has been paid reactively out of the general fund, most recently in 2017 through the use of "reserve" funds (intended for emergency and unforeseen costs). With federal and state mandates and increasing system operation costs, these reserves are not sustainable. An increase in taxes was evaluated; however the "value" of a property is not as accurate of a benchmark for contribution to stormwater as the use of impervious coverage is. Also, tax funding would exempt certain non-taxable properties that contribute stormwater runoff to the Borough's system. Street sweeping and leaf collection costs that are currently subsidized by residential refuse service charges will be shifting to the Stormwater Authority. For all residential three-can refuse service accounts, there will be a **decrease** of \$3.00 per quarter (\$12 annually) in your refuse billing.

7 Why do we need to manage stormwater and polluted runoff?

Aside from a large number of legal obligations, managing stormwater aims to improve water quality and reduce/slow the volume of runoff. Stormwater does not receive any treatment before going directly into our local waterways. The pollutants picked up along the way (grit, animal waste, oils, etc.) adversely affect wildlife and human health and safety. Excess runoff also causes flooding and erosion

8 If I rent/lease and don't 'own' property, am I still assessed a fee by the Authority?

Yes. Although you do not own property, the residence you reside in will be assessed a fee. The landlord (or owner) could potentially divide this bill and disperse it amongst tenants (if more than one). We recommend you proactively engage your landlord regarding the impact of the new charges, and review your rental agreement for further information on your obligations.

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS

Stormwater informational session for the Industrial/commercial & exempt community

Date: 1/8/19
Time: 1-3pm
Location: municipal building

Borough Stormwater Authority public hearing
FEE WILL BE DISCUSSED & POSSIBLY ENACTED

Date: 1/10/19
Time: 7pm
Location: municipal building

