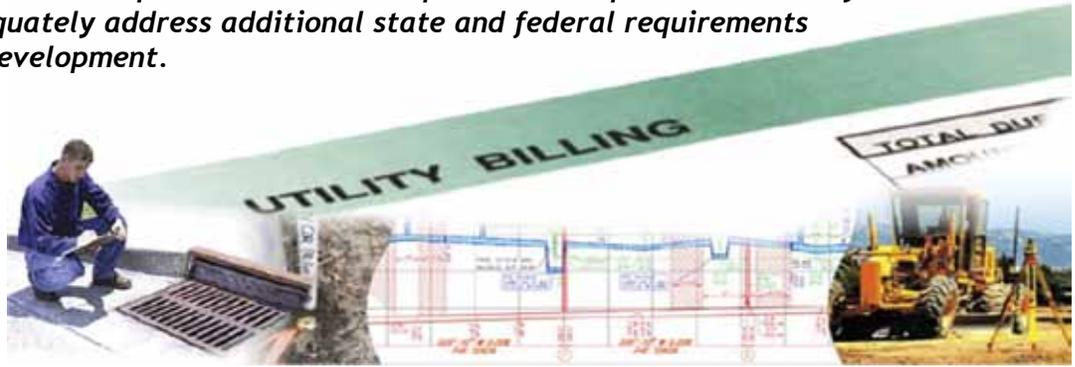


The Plan to Manage Stormwater

. . . additional responsibilities provided to the Hampden Township Sewer Authority so that they can adequately address additional state and federal requirements and plan for future development.



In the March issue of the Township newsletter we began our discussion on the new stormwater management program in Hampden Township. We'd like to continue those discussions and provide some additional information to keep you informed on the progress made.

Authorization

To address statewide stormwater issues, Pennsylvania Act 68 of 2013 was signed into law. To meet the new obligations, in December 2013, the Hampden Sewer Authority initiated the process for long-term stormwater financial stability. The Township and the Authority began proactively exploring the creation and implementation of a stormwater program to fund necessary stormwater system improvements and to meet its regulatory requirements. A residential and commercial stormwater fee is being evaluated to support this program. Once established, all of the revenue collected will be used solely for the operation, maintenance, and management of the stormwater program.



PROGRAM GOAL

In addition to meeting state law requirements and determining an appropriate level of service that residents and businesses can expect, the primary goals of the stormwater management program are to:

- Maintain the aging stormwater system while providing for new growth;
- Provide a dedicated and reliable funding source outside of the common tax base;
- Provide a fair and equitable allocation of costs to users;
- Raise awareness of the stormwater program benefits and incentivize behaviors and construct projects to minimize runoff and protect water quality; and
- Maintain affordability while simultaneously meeting regulatory requirements.

Program Facts

As a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Hampden Township is required by Section 2.g. of its permit to "... maintain adequate funding and staffing to implement and manage all provisions of ... (its) Stormwater Management Program." Hampden Township's stormwater management program and its dedication to providing proper stormwater services are critical in protecting the quality of life and property of local residents and businesses. A fiscally sound stormwater management program will allow the Authority to provide the services necessary for the prevention of flooding, maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, improvement of local water quality, and protection of the overall health of local streams and waterways within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Stormwater Advisory Committee

A Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed to provide a forum for key community stakeholders to advise Township staff on the development of the stormwater management program and recommend potential stormwater service activities to address citizens' needs and meet state and federal mandates. The SAC is composed of representatives of key stakeholders from across a broad spectrum of community interests including residents; Hampden Township staff; the business community, including commercial property owners, developers/ builders, U.S. Navy and business groups; and special interest groups that represent economic development, environmental, and other Township and Regional committees.

Role of Our Citizens

- Attend the public meetings. We will have maps at the public meetings so that you can help us to identify areas of concern for you and in your neighborhood.
- Get involved in environmental protection activities.
- Participate in watershed associations activities.
- Visit www.hampdentownship.us and follow the links for stormwater.
- Residents who are interested in receiving periodic updates on the status of the Township's efforts to address stormwater initiatives may voluntarily register for an e-mail notification service by going to the Township's website and signing up using the link under "Latest News" called "Stormwater Notification Service."



Frequently Asked Questions

The proposed Hampden Township Stormwater Management Fee will be a dedicated funding source to address stormwater infrastructure improvements, meet regulatory compliance, minimize flooding issues, and create cleaner water for our community. Some frequently asked questions about the fee are addressed below:

○ How do I affect stormwater runoff?

If you have a roof, driveway, parking lot or other impervious surface on your property you impact the amount and quality of stormwater that runs off the property. Also, household tasks such as car washing and use of fertilizer can impact stormwater quality.

○ How much will I be billed for the stormwater fee?

While everyone with buildings, pavement and other impervious surfaces on their property will pay the fee, the amount will differ between residential and non-residential areas. Single family residential properties will pay a quarterly fee estimated to be in the range of \$10-16 (evaluation of financial requirements is ongoing). All non-residential properties will pay a multiple of that fee based on the impervious surface area of their property since runoff and pollution increases as the amount of impervious surface area on a property increases.

○ How did you come up with the cost of the stormwater fee?

A 5-year capital improvement and operations/maintenance forecast was created. A list of known problems, scheduled maintenance and improvements to the existing drainage infrastructure, and projected operational costs and projects to comply with regulatory requirements were used as a basis for the forecast. A 5-year budget projection was developed to establish near-term funding needs.

○ How will residential and non-residential properties be billed?

For those properties with an existing wastewater or trash bill from the Township, the stormwater fee will appear as a separate line item on that bill. For those without a current utility bill from the Township, a new quarterly stormwater bill will be issued.

○ Will tax-exempt properties such as churches, non-profit organizations, and public utilities have to pay a stormwater fee?

Tax-exempt properties must pay for other utility charges including electric, water and sewer. Similarly current evaluations for the stormwater fee assume tax-exempt properties will be required to pay the stormwater fee.

○ Where does the money collected from the stormwater fee go?

All stormwater fees will be used solely for the operation, maintenance, and management of the stormwater system.

Program Benefits and Public Meetings – May 12th

All residents of the Township benefit significantly from properly operated and maintained stormwater and drainage infrastructure. Benefits include reduced flooding, site sustainability, reduced drainage issues, good neighbor/positive public relations and improved quality of life. To allow the general public an opportunity to help become more informed about the program we have scheduled a series public meetings, the final of which is scheduled for 7:00 pm on May 12th at the Good Hope Middle School, 451 Skyport Road.

Floodplain Guidelines For Properties

Township residents are reminded that construction within a floodplain area in Hampden must have special review and approvals. The Township's Floodplain Management Program and its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program require this.

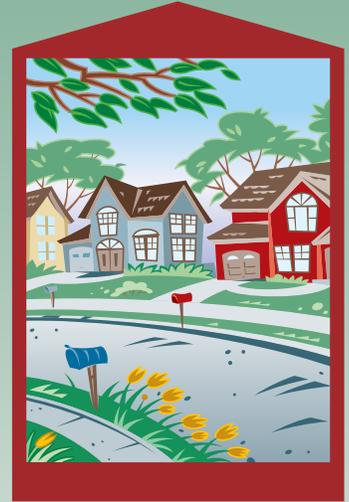
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has stringent guidelines to regulate improvements to existing structures, or the erection of new structures, in floodplain areas. The purpose of the regulations is to reduce the potential for property damage and loss during a flood event. Please note the following:

- A building permit may be required for new structures and additions or alterations to existing structures.
- If there is substantial improvement (50 percent of appraised or market value) to a structure,

the structure is required to be brought into compliance with the floodplain ordinance.

- An elevation certificate, prepared by an engineer, must be included with every building permit application.

Further information about floodplains and flood preparedness can be found at www.ready.gov/floods.



Golf Bunker Renovations Change Armitage Look

Despite a harsh winter, the renovation of all greenside sand traps at Armitage Golf Club is scheduled to be completed in April. The project changes the esthetics of the areas around all 18 greens.

Signet Golf Association II, the Pinehurst, NC, company contracted by the Township, has finished work on 14 holes and is nearing completion of sand traps on holes 1, 4, 5 and 17.

The renovation plan called for the elimination of some sand traps, the reconstruction of others, with drainage and new sand added to all of them. The golf club had 43 greenside bunkers/sand traps, six of which have been eliminated, leaving a net total of 37.

The new sand traps are not only pleasing to the eye but will also help speed play and reduce maintenance, according to Mark Jacobs, the course superintendent.

The cost of the project is \$173,428. The cost of up to 1,500 tons of new sand is estimated at about \$75,000. Armitage, one of the busiest golf courses in the Midstate with about 40,000 rounds annually, is self-sustaining and requires no tax dollars to operate or for this specific project.

The bunker work is part of a master plan for the course that was prepared in 2013 by McDonogh/Schlegel Course Design of Maryland, along with input on final design by the Golf Advisory Board and Township staff.



Hole Number 7, after sand trap renovations