



FACT SHEET

REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority 2021

As a result of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement of 1983, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated the governance of stormwater and reduction of pollutants entering the Chesapeake Bay. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) labeled approximately 19,000 miles of rivers and streams impaired for water supply, aquatic life, recreation, or fish consumption. Stormwater runoff is one of the biggest reasons for impairment. Led by Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA), the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) is designed to protect water resources from the impacts of stormwater runoff. WVSA is proud to be leading a program that will improve our environment, enhance our communities, and benefit future generations.



(MORE)

In Your Towns

- > **2,305** square miles of roadways swept
- > **7,363** streets swept
- > **629** catch basins cleaned
- > **2.13M** tons of (wet) sediment captured before reaching streams

At left: Catch basin cleaning Before (L) & After (R) / East Union Street, Nanticoke, PA

OUR ROLE

Stormwater runoff is created when rain falls on buildings, pavement, and other impervious areas (IA) that don't allow water to soak into the ground. In developed areas of Luzerne County, we limit flooding by moving this runoff from our roads, parking lots and neighborhoods through storm drains that discharge into local streams and the Susquehanna River. Since stormwater runoff is not processed at a treatment plant, any contaminant on the ground can "run off" and impact our shared surface waters. Stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants that enter storm drains and flow downstream where they harm aquatic habitats and make water unsafe for recreational activities.

Like many Pennsylvania communities, Luzerne County faces a range of stormwater management challenges, including increasing federal and state regulations, aging or undersized infrastructure, and additional regulatory responsibilities for a municipality's MS4 permit requirements under the Clean Water Act. Several communities face a backlog of necessary stormwater management improvement projects and no dedicated capital budget to fund them.

As the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Administrator, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) is leading a regional approach to stormwater management. WVSA guides development and implementation of the RSMP, collaborating regularly with co-permittees (municipalities) to ensure compliance and project feasibility. This regional approach provides for greater cost efficiencies, strategic partnerships and more equitable distribution of costs for services.

OUR SERVICES

The MS4 permit requires development of a program that satisfies six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), supported by implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) by the end of 2023. WVSA works with RSMP municipalities to execute BMPs and raise public awareness about their significance in stemming pollutants entering our waterways. The MCMs are defined as 1) Public outreach and education; 2) Public involvement and participation; 3) Illicit discharge detection and elimination; 4) Construction site stormwater runoff control; 5) Construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment and 6) Pollution prevention/Good housekeeping.

Several BMPs focus on reducing nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants to improve stormwater quality. Others focus on increasing stormwater infiltration and reducing flow volumes, which reduces flooding and erosion downstream. WVSA's stormwater fees will help support stormwater system mapping, outfall inspections, catch basin cleaning/repairs, street sweeping, stream bank restoration, community rain gardens and more.

OUR COMMITMENT

WVSA has a steadfast commitment to the RSMP and the benefits it will yield to all communities. Our Stormwater Management Team is comprised of dedicated engineers, environmentalists, GIS practitioners, project managers and more. Our team is charged with collecting data, identifying solutions, and educating the public about stormwater pollution and management.

For more information, visit wvsa.org/stormwater-management, or follow us on Twitter @WVSAStormSewer.



In Your Communities

Luzerne County RiverFest
ChalkFest & Hydromania

