

The Mount Joy Township  
Public Education and Outreach Program



Stormwater Management Program  
MCM #1

December 21, 2020

**Purpose:** The Mount Joy Township Public Education and Outreach Program (PEOP) sets forth a strategy to distribute educational materials to the community and/or conduct outreach activities about the impacts of stormwater discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

The PEOP is intended to satisfy Minimum Control Measure #1 of the Township’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. This is one of six MCMs established by the permit to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the regulated storm sewer system:

- 1. Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts**
2. Public Involvement/Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) in New and Re-Development Activities
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

#### *Target Audience Groups*

Mount Joy Township maintains two key databases that are also useful in distributing water quality information via mail. We mail at least one piece of correspondence per year to each property on these lists. Approximately 3,300 residential customers and 70 commercial/industrial entities are managed through our municipal trash and recycling program. These databases are updated regularly as property owners change, new homes are built, and businesses are established.

**Action Item: Continue to maintain the Township’s residential and commercial/industrial contacts databases.**

#### *Distribution of the Message*

Water resources-based bill stuffers were included in the December 2020 trash and recycling mailings that were sent to over 3,300 residential customers. This is a medium that has direct contact with our citizens and a good resource to piggyback educational materials with. Likewise, our annual mailings to commercial/industrial entities will include water quality literature that is more suited to land uses that often utilize larger parking lots and have more impervious coverage contributing runoff to waterways.

**Action Item: Include targeted water quality materials with annual mailings to both residential and commercial/industrial properties.**

The semi-annual Township Newsletter is mailed to each property and a newsletter archive is made available on the Township website. Our primary goals for this regular publication are to update the

community on local issues like the Township budget, road improvements, parks and recreation, public safety, and civic resources. Water quality issues are a natural fit with this subject matter and have been included in recent newsletters.

**Action Item: Publish at least one water quality segment in the Township newsletter per year.**



**Lawn maintenance for water quality:**

- If you have a lawn, limit its size and break it up with other mixed height plantings;
- A lawn can have a variety of grasses and plants. Enjoy your weeds and their varying root depths (dandelions grow deep tuberous roots that pull nutrients and water deep into the soils);
- Lawns should be brown in the summer heat, resting after the spring growth spurt and using stored energy to grow deep roots. Maintaining green grass with constant watering is a stress on your lawn. Water only if necessary and water deeply when you do;
- Long grass means good roots, less stress and good health. Grass should be mowed to 3+ inches in height and never more than 1/3 of the blade at one time (sugars/cellulose needed for root growth should remain on the plant). In late fall after the grass has set up for winter (begins to brown), cut it shorter;
- Leave mulched grass clippings on your lawn to add nutrients back into the soil;
- Fertilizers create thatch (densely growing roots) which attracts grubs;
- Lawn aeration is the secret to a healthy lawn. By extracting a soil core/plug or using a spike aerator, the soil can breathe, allowing oxygen and water to become more available to the roots, which promotes growth;
- Organic fertilizers may have too much nitrogen, which will acidify the soil and make grass susceptible to insects;
- If after testing your soil you determine that it needs a boost, use a balanced fertilizer such as a compost tea or manure tea at one-half the recommend strength.

**Milanof-Schock Library**  
1184 Anderson Ferry Road  
Mount Joy  
www.mslibrary.org

**Hours:** Mon-Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM  
Saturday 9 AM - 4 PM  
Closed Friday & Sunday

**Book Donation Hours:** Gently used books and media can be donated to the self-service shed behind the library Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM - 8 PM, and Saturdays from 9 AM - Noon.

**Community Paper Shredding Event:** The Mount Joy Rotary will be sponsoring their annual shredding event behind the library on Saturday, October 24 from 9 - 11 AM (line-up begins at 8:45; follow posted signs). All papers should be placed in non-returnable cardboard boxes. Volunteers will unload boxes from your car trunk or back storage area. Cash donations are requested for the Mount Joy Christmas Tree Decoration Fund.

**Check out the child, youth, adult, and family programs and clubs on our website!**

All library programs are free unless stated otherwise, and require preregistration. Online registration is encouraged.

**City of Lancaster's Recycling Drop-Off Center**  
850 New Holland Avenue, Lancaster 717.735.6957

The Township website ([mtjoypwp.org](http://mtjoypwp.org)) contains a dedicated Water Resources page with stormwater management and water quality information. It is also being developed as a showcase for locally-led waterway improvements like our Green Meadows Streambank Stabilization project on the Conoy Creek and our collaborative effort with Londonderry Township to restore a segment of the Conewago Creek. This mode of public outreach has significant potential as people rely more and more on digital information sources. We essentially have limitless space in which to house these educational pieces, and it is our goal to build this section of the website out over the coming years.

**Action Item: Continue to post more water resources literature, practical tips, and updates for local improvement projects on the Township website.**



News Code of Ordinances Contact Us (717) 367-8917

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# Water Resources

## Water Quality Information

Mount Joy Township began implementing its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) water quality program in 2018. Our storm sewer system consists of the Township-owned roads, storm pipes, swales, inlets, and basins that collect and convey rainfall to waterways. All runoff that passes through the Township's MS4 and exits through an outfall is the responsibility of the municipality. The [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#) and [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) administer the MS4 program and provide useful information on stormwater management via their websites.

It takes a collective effort to improve the quality of the runoff that ends up in our local creeks and streams. Rain and snow that does not soak into the ground flows downhill until it reaches a waterway, taking with it any soil, debris, trash, or pollutants. Remember that the storm pipes and inlets along the roads ultimately flow to surface waters, so help make sure only stormwater flows to the storm sewers!



If you see anything other than stormwater flowing through the storm sewer system, contact Mount Joy Township at