

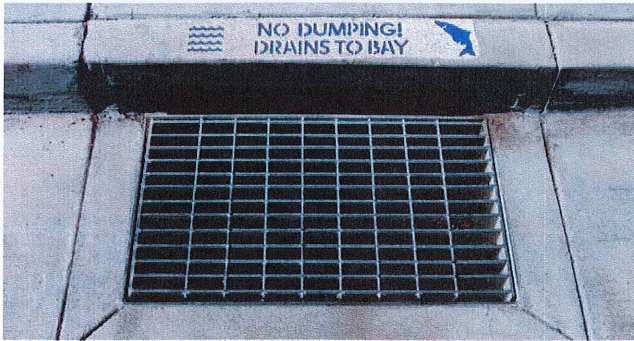
# City Storm Water Management

## WHY ARE PROPERTY OWNERS PAYING A STORM WATER FEE?

A storm water management fee was established by the City of Lebanon to ensure City-owned storm water management facilities are well-maintained and to pay for the implementation of programs and facilities designed to reduce storm water pollution. Storm water pollution is a City-wide issue that must be properly managed to improve the quality of our local waterways. The operation and maintenance of a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is expensive, especially when federal and state regulatory requirements concerning water quality, through NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits and others, are considered.

Through the Clean Water Act, regulations have been imposed to require the clean-up of our impaired waterways, including the Quittapahilla Creek, Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay, so they are safe for their designated uses, such as public water supply and recreation.

Many municipalities, not only in Pennsylvania but nationwide, have adopted storm water fees to defray the costs of complying with the state-mandated pollutant reduction programs and maintaining their storm water systems. Prior to the 2018 MS4 permit term, the City was able to fund its storm water management program through normal tax collections. Under the new permit, the City is required to reduce pollutant loads by 10 percent during the current permit term. Compliance with these unfunded mandates dramatically increases the cost of the City's MS4 program, and tax revenue is not sufficient to pay these costs. Storm water management fees collected by the City must be spent specifically on storm water services and facilities the City provides.



**STORM WATER POLLUTANT REDUCTION** The revenue generated by the storm water management fee will allow the City of Lebanon, in conjunction with other municipalities in the area, to screen the MS4 for illicit discharges, enforce ordinances regulating construction projects and the post-construction maintenance of storm water facilities, maintain maps of the MS4, fund drainage improvement projects, conduct regular employee MS4 training and construct storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as storm water retention basins, wetlands, vegetated swales, and streambank restorations to reduce the pollutant load to local surface waters.

**STORM WATER FEE CALCULATION** The storm water fee is calculated based on a property's amount of Impervious area, which consist of all "hard" surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, concrete, stone, or gravel which prevent water from soaking into the ground. These surfaces increase both the rate and volume of storm water runoff reaching local streams. Impervious areas are the focus of the storm water management fee because they are the primary source of pollution in developed watersheds.

All properties in the City of Lebanon have been classified either as "Single Family Residential" or "Non-Single Family Residential" based on the use of the property. The average amount of impervious area on a SFR property is called an Equivalent Residential Unit, or ERU. One ERU is 1,780 square feet in City of Lebanon. All SFR properties are charged for one (1) ERU. All non-SFR properties are charged multiple ERUs based on the property's total impervious area.



**FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION**