

# 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 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, recreation and fishing, among others.

Many municipalities, not only in Pennsylvania but nationwide, have adopted storm water fees to defray the costs of complying with state-mandated pollutant reduction programs and the maintenance of their storm water systems. Prior to the 2018 MS4 permit term, the City was able to fund its storm water management program through regular 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.

## HOW IS CITY STORM WATER FUNDING SPENT?

The revenue generated by a storm water fee allows the City to screen the MS4 for illicit discharges, enforce proper maintenance of storm water facilities, maintain maps of the MS4, conduct regular employee training and, in conjunction with other municipalities in Lebanon, construct storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs), reducing the pollutant load reaching our surface waters and damaging natural resources. The City, in cooperation with five other municipalities in Lebanon County, funded the restoration of the Quittie Creek downstream of the City's flood control channel to 22nd Street. This project allowed the City to over-achieve its mandated pollutant reduction requirements for this period.



*Quittapahilla Creek Pre-restoration  
Impaired State (2021)*



*Quittapahilla Creek with Floodplain Restored  
One Year Post-construction (2024)*

## QUITTAPAHILLA CREEK FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

During 2023, 1,386 feet along the Quittapahilla Creek was restored, involving removal of layers of erodible legacy sediment along its banks in order to reach natural floodplain soils closer to water level. High vertical banks along the creek were removed, shown above, which have continuously eroded over the years, sending unnatural amounts of sediment downstream and undercutting trees. The project has grown in throughout the last year and will continue to become a self-sustaining ecosystem. This floodplain will reduce flooding and retain sediment and nutrients which would otherwise continue downstream and further destabilize other ecosystems such as Swatara Creek, Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.