



South 26th Street



Pennsylvania and Princeton Streets



Beverly Road Area



## STORMWATER PROGRAM FEE

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### How does our stormwater system work?

When it rains, much of the water does not soak into the ground. If it lands on a roof, driveway or other impervious surface, the water runs along the surface, across paved areas, along curbs and into ditches. Often it then runs into stormwater inlets which are covered with a grate. These inlets are connected by buried pipes. We have about **17 miles of pipe** that help convey the stormwater.

Stormwater runoff can cause public safety hazards, health risks and environmental threats. Flooding needs to be prevented. The runoff also picks up dirt, trash, oil, grease, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste and other pollutants and carries them into our waterways. Stream banks can be eroded.



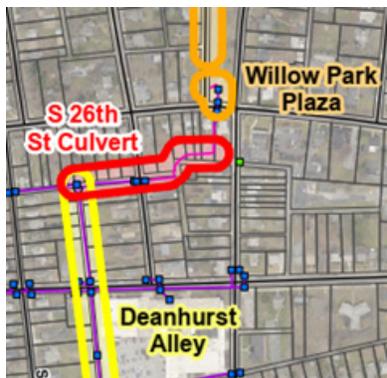
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Eventually the pipes connect to larger pipes and then discharge to the surface or through an outfall to a stream. Ultimately the stormwater runs to the Susquehanna River and then to the Chesapeake Bay. The State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires the Borough to manage its stormwater as part of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program. **If the Borough does not address stormwater concerns including reducing pollutants in the next five years, DEP and EPA will likely impose fines** based on the permit associated with the Borough's stormwater discharge.

### Do we have problems with our stormwater facilities?

We do. There are stormwater needs throughout the Borough which need to be addressed in coming years. For example, much of our stormwater pipe is metal and has been in use for decades causing it to corrode and deform. Improvements in the next 5 years will cost about **\$9.5 million dollars**. These improvements are needed to protect public health and properties and sustain our roadways.

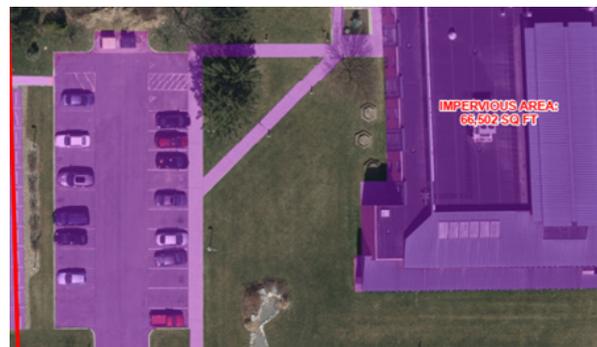


### How do we pay to fix the problems with the stormwater facilities?

Besides costs from improvement projects, there are regular operation and maintenance costs associated with the stormwater system. Currently, Borough property owners pay to maintain and improve the stormwater system through property taxes. The problem with using taxes is that a property's assessed value does not correlate to the amount of stormwater it sends into the system. In addition, tax exempt properties often contribute significant stormwater runoff but do not pay towards the stormwater system since they are exempt from taxes.

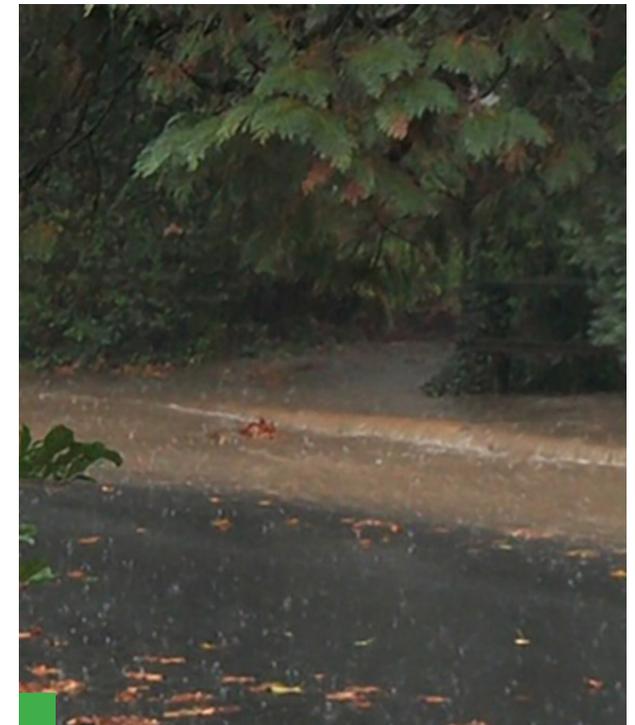
The Borough chose to develop aerial imagery of all properties in the Borough from which the amount of impervious surface on each property was measured. Because we have impervious area amounts, we can determine how to **distribute costs more equitably**.

Pennsylvania recently passed a law allowing Authorities to charge a stormwater fee. The Borough plans to use the impervious area data to determine what this fee should be for each property. This also means that properties that are not subject to taxes will be able to contribute to the community's stormwater needs based on the amount of impervious area on their property.



### Could we just pay for stormwater needs from taxes?

We could, but it isn't equitable. For example, 74% of the taxable assessed value in the Borough is from residential parcels. But residential properties do not contribute that percentage of runoff. They actually only have 53% of the impervious area (IA) in the Borough. **If stormwater needs are paid from taxes, residential properties pay 40% more than they should.**



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