

Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

January 2023 Edition



Clogged Storm Drains

The effects of a clogged storm drain can be felt in other areas of the storm water management system.

Lower Allen Township has 634 stormwater inlets within the 10.3 square miles of land. Can you locate all of them? The Township Public Works Department works had to inspect, maintain and clean all 634 of them. Not a small task when you consider all of the other jobs the Public Works Department handles on a daily basis. Consider helping the Public Works Department by cleaning the tops of storm drains, especially before a precipitation event. Keeping the tops clean or the areas around the storm drain free of debris will help to keep the storm drain from becoming blocked or slow-moving.

Dangerous Conditions

Storm drains that are clogged or slow moving can cause water to pool around the drain. Water that collects around a storm drain can cause dangerous driving conditions any time of year. Common issues from pooled water are hydroplaning or poor visibility. In the winter, pooling water can turn to ice causing a loss of traction.

Erosion

Water that pools around a storm drain can not only be dangerous to drivers but it could cause damage to landscapes in the area. Pooling water often drags soil with it as it moves. This erosion can be costly to property owners while the increased sediment in the water will eventually end up in the storm pipes, leading to more flow issues.

Property Damage

Not only can landscapes be destroyed or altered on properties, but a clogged storm drain could cause homes to be flooded or damage to vehicles. A more substantial loss could be greater damage to the entire stormwater management system. Failures in the system can cause widespread structural issues.