

Lower Allen Township's

Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

November 2023 Edition

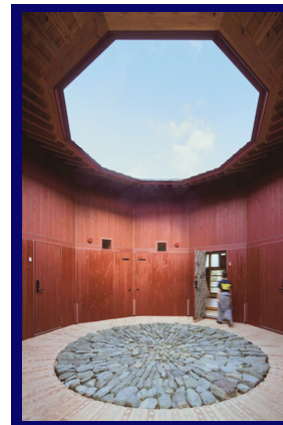
What do you see?



Pic: storm drain picture from Highland Estates, October 2023

When out in your neighborhood what litter do you see? Is it cigarette butts in the street, candy wrappers near a garbage can in the park, or glass near your curbside collection location? Wherever you see the litter, what is your response? Do you pick it up or let it for someone else? If you let it for someone else, do you think the next person is actually picking up the litter? Any trash in a place that it should not be is considered litter. Where does the litter come from? According to studies, 53% of litter along roadways comes from motorists while 23% of the litter is from pedestrians.

Kamikatsu, Japan



Imagine a place that has no trash, no litter, no waste. That place does exist, Kamikatsu, Japan. This small town started a journey in 2003 to reduce the use of the waste incinerator that was used to dispose of their waste. After discovering how harmful to the environment a waste incinerator could be, the town launched a zero waste initiative that includes sorting trash into 34 categories for recycling, reuse, or compost their waste. The town efforts led to an 80% decline in waste within the first 10 years of the initiative and 1/3 reduction in waste costs for the town.

Littering is No Joke!

Think before you flick! That was the slogan a few years ago to discourage people from littering cigarette butts.

Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter in the world, with estimates of 4.5 trillion cigarette butts tossed every year. With more than 70 toxins in cigarette smoke alone, imagine all those toxins ending up in our waterways, absorbed by plants or ingested by fish and other animals. According to a study completed in 2021 by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, 20% of all litter in the United States is cigarette butts. That means that 9.7 billion cigarettes are littered each year with 4 billion of those ending up in waterways. Proper disposal of litter is necessary to keep streets clean and storm drains clear of all litter. Fact or Fiction: Cigarette butts are biodegradable. This is Fiction. Cigarettes are made of plastic, which makes them definitely not biodegradable.

Lower Allen Township Clean Up

Interested in getting involved? Do you take walks? Consider joining a cleanup event or taking a trash bag with you when you head out on your walk! Lower Allen Township will be hosting a PA Parks Cleanup Event in November to take a few minutes throughout the day on November 21st and clean up Wass Park. Clean up time will be 9am to 11am and all cleanup supplies will be provided. If you are interested in joining this cleanup event, please email barnold@latwp.org to register for the event.