

Lower Allen Township's

Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

January 2025 Edition



cleaning storm drains with pipe jetting equipment

The Hidden Work of Stormwater Fees

Large scale projects are not the only way that Lower Allen Township uses stormwater fees to improve and maintain infrastructure within the Township. Paving projects and basin retrofit projects are the most seen projects in the Township. Residents can be inconvenienced by a road paving project drawing attention to the additional stormwater projects that can be completed at the same time. The visibility of a basin retrofit project will also bring attention to the use of stormwater fees.

Lower Allen Township uses the stormwater fees in other ways as well. Stormwater fees are also used for storm drain cleaning, street sweeping, pipe jetting and televising of stormwater pipes. Lower Allen Township Public Works Department handles street sweeping and storm drain cleaning within the department. Crews work throughout the year to keep more than 630 storm drains clear of debris throughout the Township. Street sweepings are collected from Township roads and held at the Public Works property until collected for disposal. Street sweepings have heavy metals and other contaminants that must be disposed of in appropriately permitted landfills.

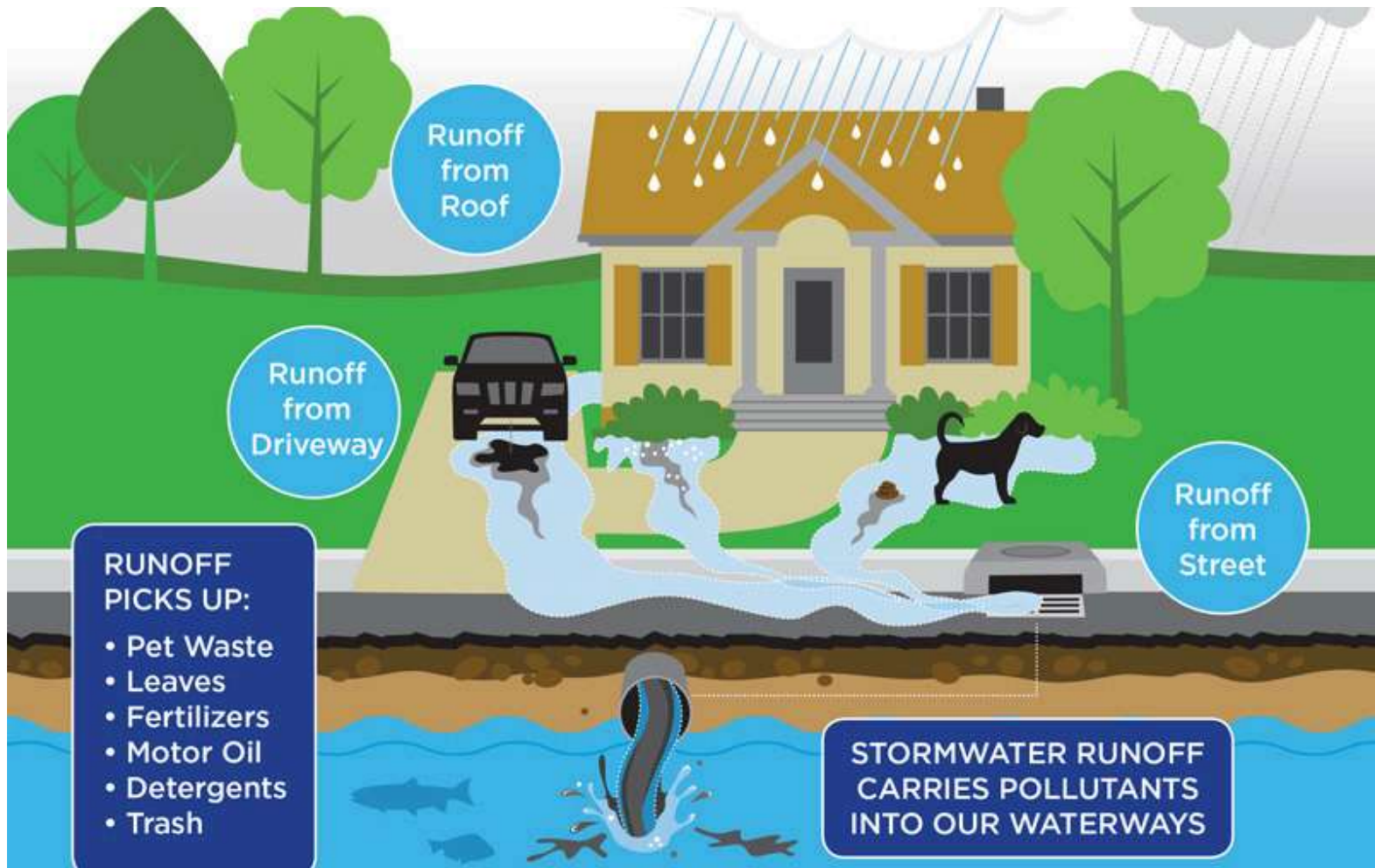
Lower Allen Township contracts with vendors to provide televising and pipe jetting. Televising of stormwater pipes can give the Township staff vital information regarding the conditions inside the stormwater pipes, the material of the pipes, and locations of unmapped pipes. Televising allows staff to add unmapped pipes to our GIS mapping, allowing for more complete information for the future. Sometimes during televising, debris is found inside pipes. This is most commonly sediment from runoff. In some situations, stormwater pipes have been used to dump materials illegally. Televising gives the Township a video of the pipes from the inside without disruption. Televising equipment can access stormwater pipes through stormwater manholes. If debris is found in stormwater pipes, pipe jetting can be utilized to break up the debris. High powered streams of water can be sprayed inside the pipes to break up the debris and remove it from the pipes.

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February 2025 Edition



What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water that originates from precipitation, coming from weather events like rain or snow. Stormwater flows over roofs, sidewalks, lawns, driveways, or streets. All of these places could have dangerous pollutants that would flow into Waters of the Commonwealth. These pollutants would then flow to the Cedar Run or Yellow Breeches Creek, to the Susquehanna River and into the Chesapeake Bay. Lower Allen Township's MS4 Permit requires the Township to meet sediment reduction goals and pollution reduction requirements. These reductions allow for cleaner waters in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

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March 2025 Edition



The most common material found in our local waterways is plastic. In fact, 80% of all marine pollution is plastic. Facts about plastic waste:

- more plastic products have been produced in the last 10 years than the previous century
- by 2050, plastic will outweigh all fish in the sea
- ExxonMobil is the largest plastic producer in the world

Could you eliminate plastic from your life? What if you were paid to eliminate it? What incentive would work for your lifestyle? Research is ongoing to make plastic recycling accessible to everyone. If you see it, pick it up!

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April 2025 Edition



Photo credits: R. Buckman, YBWA and T. Trone.

April brings warmer weather and more residents outside, cleaning up yards, parks, and streamsides from the winter weather debris. Litter from roadways and lawns is collected by storm run-off and can accumulate in the local waterways. If you are looking for a way to give back, consider participating in a local clean up event. There are 20 clean up events registered in the month of April in the area. To find a clean up event near you, visit www.cleanup.keppabeautiful.org. Lower Allen Township hosts and supports multiple clean up events each year.