

STORMWATER PROGRAM FEE TO BE BILLED APRIL 2023



The required stormwater projects are moving forward with funding by a fee paid by property owners in the Borough as recommended by the steering committee and discussed at public meetings in 2022. Most fees will be on the same billing as your sewer/refuse bill beginning in April 2023.

Through a fee based on impervious area, Hummelstown Borough will pay for its stormwater management program costs, including necessary improvements created by unfunded mandates in addition to short- and long-term maintenance needs. Like other communities, Hummelstown Borough manages stormwater through a series of pipes, inlets, and swales that convey water when it rains. In addition to the costs of maintaining infrastructure and continuing to address flooding concerns, Hummelstown Borough is faced with requirements from the state and federal governments through the MS4 program. Throughout 2022 Hummelstown Borough provided information to the public in an effort to be transparent in the process and approach and to aid in public awareness and understanding of the issues.



11
MILES
OF PIPE

the distance from
Hummelstown to Annville

HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE USED?

There are stormwater needs throughout the municipality that will need to be addressed in coming years. The Municipality is required to develop and implement a **pollutant reduction plan (PRP)**, essentially a program of projects that will help to mitigate the impacts of stormwater.

The first **PRP** project, Bullfrog Valley, cost the Borough over \$400,000. The Borough will be required to perform a similar project in the next DEP permit cycle. Stormwater infrastructure repairs are planned in 2023, for Hummel Nature Trail & Duke & High Streets estimated to cost \$320,000. In addition, the budget allows \$125,000 per year for other infrastructure repairs, such as for drain box and pipe replacement. The budget developed along with the stakeholder committee also includes funds to purchase televising equipment, in order to assess the condition of the Borough stormwater system.

WHY USE A FEE RATHER THAN RAISE TAXES?

The problem with using taxes for the stormwater system needs 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, like churches and government buildings, benefit from the stormwater program but would not pay towards the stormwater program since they are exempt from taxes.

Hummelstown Borough chose to develop aerial imagery of properties in the municipality. From this information, the amount of impervious surface on each property was estimated. With the impervious area amounts, we are able to **distribute costs more equitably**.

A stormwater authority was formed and is using the impervious area data to determine the stormwater fee for each property. The average residential customer rate is \$13 per month.

44%
savings

Covering stormwater costs from a tax would cost the average residential property owner about 44% more than from a stormwater fee

An appeal form is available on the Borough website. Complete the appeal form and return to the Borough office. Check out the credit manual to determine if you qualify for a credit. See "Stormwater" under "Resident Information" at Hummelstown.net.