



INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOROUGH'S STORMWATER ORDINANCE

As part of the requirements of the federally legislated Clean Water Act and Pennsylvania's MS4 program, the Borough of Parkesburg adopted a new stormwater ordinance in June 2006. Every property owner in the Borough should be aware of the requirements of the stormwater ordinance, particularly if that property owner has future plans for the installation of a new pavement area for a driveway or for the installation of a new building addition.

In accordance with the stormwater ordinance, management of stormwater is required when new impervious surfaces are to be added to a property. An impervious surface is a surface that prevents the infiltration of water into the ground. Impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roof areas, patio areas, and driveway areas, including those with blacktop, concrete and compacted stone surfaces.

The management of stormwater consists of controlling the surface runoff that is generated by precipitation. Control of the runoff can occur by way of the installation of features such as stone seepage pits, rain barrels, detention basins, rain gardens, wet ponds, and bioretention areas. For residential properties, these features can be created by simple, cost-effective, and aesthetically pleasing methods.

When planned construction has the potential to result in muddy disturbances of earthwork, erosion & sediment control procedures need to be implemented. These procedures are to follow the requirements of Chapter 102 of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law and are subject to review by the Chester County Conservation District.

After understanding the possible scenarios for controlling stormwater, and for implementing erosion & sediment control procedures, it is recommended that a design professional be engaged to finalize the stormwater features and the erosion & sediment control implementation. A design professional, such as an engineer or landscape architect, registered in Pennsylvania, with stormwater design experience and with knowledge of the stormwater regulations, will be able to assist in determining what is appropriate for a particular property.

The Borough's stormwater ordinance is Ordinance No. 464. This ordinance can be found online under the ordinances section of the Borough's website. Section 105 of the ordinance lists the activities and conditions that are subject to the regulations of the ordinance. Section 106 of the ordinance lists the activities and conditions that are subject to possible exemption status when granted by the Borough. If an exemption is not granted, then a stormwater management permit is required for the regulated activities and conditions. For an exemption, the requirements for the application submission are listed in Section 302 of the ordinance. Section 301.C of the ordinance lists the nine individual stormwater management plans that may possibly be required for a permit, depending on the anticipated activities and conditions. Sections 303 through 311 of the ordinance list the requirements for each of the nine different stormwater management plans. An application form shall be completed and accompany the submission for an exemption. An application form shall be completed and accompany the submission of the stormwater management plans for a permit. The Borough's application form may be found online under this stormwater section of the Borough's website.

The overall goal of the federally legislated programs is to improve water quality by minimizing the discharge of contaminants into surface waters, including Little Buck Run and its tributaries.