



## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

### NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

- ❖ Decorated pollinator pots for the holidays with twinkling solar lights, festive bows, and evergreen clippings collected by staff in addition to those donated.
  - A huge thank you to Lemoynne resident Donna Royal for her gracious donations and time spent decorating pots despite the frigid and wet weather!
  - A huge thank you to Lemoynne residents Rick & Shirley Stark for generously donating several large full bags of evergreen trimmings used to decorate! It takes many greens to make an impact in our pots – we appreciate these beautiful clippings so much.



- ❖ December 4<sup>th</sup> was National Wildlife Conservation Day!
  - Did you know our red foxes are now officially endangered?
  - This newsletter from PA Parks & Rec shows many ways to protect and support the wildlife near us, and more. [Critters and Conservation: Wildlife Conservation Day | Good For PA](#)
- ❖ Swings between moderate and very cold temperatures and several heavy rainstorms (and snow!) throughout the month caused clogged storm drains.
  - We experienced several days of heavy rains, including a 24-hour period where we received a deluge of 2.6” of rain.
  - Storm drains were covered after each weather event; MS4 and Maintenance staff removed leaves, debris, and trash from drains throughout month.



## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

- ❖ Illicit Discharge – 400 block of Market St
  - Found large wet black chemical spill with rainbow sheen and the smell of fuel oil reaching across several parking spaces, into rain garden, coating bricks, curbing, plants, rocks, etc.
  - Reported Illicit Discharge to Maintenance Department. Investigated, photographed, and documented spill. Interviewed & educated businesses adjacent to spill.
  - Maintenance Department gathered materials, traveled to site, and administered spill kit, including silt sock, premium hydrocarbon absorbent, and manually cleared out oil, sludge, and absorbent from impacted rain gardens, including plants, rocks, bricks, gutters, etc.
  - Dispatched street sweeper to remove pollutants from street.
  - Issued Notice to vehicle owner with cease and desist and supporting educational materials from EPA and DEP regarding the necessity of and ways to prevent oil spills and vehicular discharges into stormwater runoff.

Before



After





## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

### STORMWATER TIPS FOR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

Oil and other toxic car leaks end up in puddles where our kids and pets like to play. Fixing car leaks can prevent these fluids from ending up in our streams and lakes where they harm fish, wildlife, and habitat.

**For any spill, avoid the use of water for cleaning.** To prevent contaminated stormwater from reaching storm drains, dry spills should be swept up and disposed of appropriately, while wet spills should be contained and absorbed using the equipment included in standard spill kits.

Spill prevention and control measures can be highly effective at reducing the risk of surface and groundwater contamination.

If a spill occurs, prompt action is the most effective measure to limit environmental harm and cleanup costs.

Good housekeeping is the cheapest and most cost-effective way to control a spill. Once a spill has occurred, the cost of cleanup can be significant.

Keeping your vehicle maintained isn't just about safety and convenience, it can also keep pollution out of our streams, rivers, and lakes. When working with oil and toxic chemicals, even small drips and spills have big impacts when storm runoff carries it to storm drains.

Washing cars on driveways, parking lots or in the street can also send harmful soap and grime to our waterways.

The fluids used to keep our vehicles operating are highly toxic to humans and wildlife. With so many vehicles on the road, even small drips can add up to big problems. A study in Puget Sound found that over 66% of oil and grease pollution came from vehicle's small drips and leaks.

Keep your vehicle running smoothly and our streams clean by following regular maintenance and fixing leaks when you find them.

Changing your own oil or antifreeze, topping off the battery with water, and keeping your vehicle maintained can save money, ensure your vehicle runs efficiently and reduce environmental impacts. But whenever you're working with highly toxic materials, it's critical to prevent spills and be prepared when they do happen.

**Use pans, cardboard, a plastic tarp, or oil absorbent mat to catch spills.** Spilled antifreeze and oil can be deadly to children, pets, and wildlife. Use care when draining and refilling to prevent accidental spills.

**Keep a bag of kitty litter or a granular oil/ hydrocarbon absorbent on hand to absorb spills.** Sprinkle a thick layer on the spill to absorb it, then sweep the used litter in a plastic bag and dispose of it in your garbage. NEVER wash with a hose.

**NEVER dump automotive fluids or solvents** on the ground or in a storm drain, street gutter, or water body.

**Recycle all oils, antifreeze, solvents, and batteries.** Many local car parts dealers and gas stations accept used oil. Used oil can be recycled with your curbside recycling.



## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

### FACT SHEET: Auto Care and Water Pollution

We all know cars cause air pollution. But did you know cars also cause water pollution? As we drive, our cars and trucks leave "car dirt"—bits of tires, brakes, and rusty metal on the street. When we park, our cars and trucks leave oil, grease, and transmission fluid stains on driveways and parking lots. Cars also collect leaking oils and other fluids and can accumulate other "road dirt." Less visible are the tiny exhaust particles that gradually settle out of the air or come down with rain or snow.

What happens to the "car dirt," "road dirt," and oils and fluids when it rains? Rain and melting snow wash these pollutants off our cars, and they flow across the pavement, down the gutter, into storm drains, and ultimately into our waterways.

Even on sunny days, polluted water continues to flow out of storm sewers. To understand the effects of stormwater runoff, take a walk to a small stream in your town. Is the water clear or is it cloudy? Do you see soapsuds or oily sheens floating on the water? Cloudy water can be from "road dirt" washed in to the storm sewer. Soapsuds may have come from someone washing their car in their driveway. Oily sheens may come from leaking cars or from someone dumping fluids down a storm drain. These scenarios are real and negatively affect the environment.

You can help stop this kind of pollution! Explain to your family and friends that storm sewers do not connect to sewer plants. Instead, they carry water directly to our creeks and rivers. Outlined below are helpful tips for proper auto care:

#### ▶ Recycle Used Motor Oil and Antifreeze

Never pour oil or antifreeze down storm drains or use them to kill weeds. You can recycle old motor oil and antifreeze. Store used oil and antifreeze in an airtight plastic jug or metal can and take it to a community oil-recycling center. Check with your local Borough, Township, or County Solid Waste Authority for an authorized used oil/antifreeze drop-off center. Your local gas station, auto repair shop, or auto parts store may also accept used oil/antifreeze.

#### ▶ Use Commercial Car Washes

Commercial car washes are a good way to protect our creeks and rivers from pollutants. Most commercial car washes recycle their wash water. Any water that is not suitable for reuse goes to a sewer treatment plant for pollutant removal. If you wash cars on a paved driveway or parking lot, the dirty, soapy water runs down the streets, traveling into the storm sewer, and eventually ends up in our waterways. If you must wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn where the soapy water will soak into the ground, filtering out many of the pollutants.

#### ▶ Care for your Car...and your Environment

Of course, not driving is the best way to reduce pollution from our cars. Heavily traveled streets and highways produce the greatest amounts of polluted runoff. The runoff from heavily traveled streets can contain enough zinc, lead, or copper to kill fish and other aquatic life. If you cannot use public transportation, implementing the following best practices will help you maintain your vehicle as well as a healthy and thriving environment:

- Keep your car tuned up and running efficiently. A properly tuned car causes less air and water pollution.
- Promptly repair any oil, grease, antifreeze, or transmission fluid leaks, and clean up any spots using cat litter or other absorbent material.
- Recycle used vehicle batteries. Most auto parts stores will accept old batteries at no charge; some will even pay you for them.
- Sparingly use paints, polishes, and cleaners as many of them are toxic. Never pour these liquids down storm drains.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Five quarts of waste oil can create an oil slick the size of two football fields or pollute a million gallons of drinking water.
- ▶ Antifreeze is very poisonous to people and animals. Because of its sweet taste and smell, antifreeze may attract children or pets and other animals. Drinking only three ounces may kill an adult and even less will kill children or pets.
- ▶ Phosphates in soap are a form of fertilizer that causes excess weed and/or algae growth. Weeds and algae decompose and consume oxygen needed by fish, frogs, and crayfish.
- ▶ More than 95 percent of an automotive battery can be recycled, including the old battery acid, which can be turned into chemicals used for laundry detergent.

#### WE CAN HELP!

- ▶ Kara Kalupson, RLA, ASLA, CPMSM  
(717) 431-3706  
[kara.kalupson@rette.com](mailto:kara.kalupson@rette.com)
- ▶ Jim Caldwell  
(717) 431-3740  
[jcaldwell@rette.com](mailto:jcaldwell@rette.com)

#### ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FUNDRAISER

Are you thinking of having a car wash to raise money for charity? Have you thought about teaming up with a local commercial car wash and selling car wash tickets? You would be helping your charity, your local economy, and your environment.

RETTEW



## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

- ❖ Inspected storm drains, inlets, outfalls, tributaries, BMPs, and green infrastructure throughout the month during all weather conditions.
  - All BMPs infiltrated appropriately throughout multiple heavy rainfall events.



- ❖ Met personally with Natalie Marioni, recently hired PSU Extension Educator & Master Watershed Steward Coordinator – Cumberland, Adams, Franklin Counties
  - Clean Water Cumberland – Countywide Action Plan
  - Pennsylvania’s Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan
  - Discussed roles & opportunities for MS4 staff and Master Watershed Stewards
  - For more information about Cumberland County’s Action Plan, see: [Clean Water Cumberland | Cumberland County, PA - Official Website \(cumberlandcountypa.gov\)](https://www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/clean-water)
  - For more information about PA’s Watershed Implementation Plan, see: [Healthy Waters PA](https://www.healthywaterspa.org/)

## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

### ❖ Market & 8<sup>th</sup> St Bump Out Restoration

- UGI has completed the hardscape reconstruction of the previously damaged bump outs.
  - Met with construction crew and UGI multiple times throughout process to review plans for reconstruction – ensure curbs/ sidewalk/ grates/ walkway / brick replacement inside curb cut out all meet design specifications and grading of materials enhances flow of stormwater into appropriate channels.
  - UGI valves inside bump out will require repeated access; bricks inside curbing will be replaced with rain garden plantings to allow access to valves.
  - Approved rain garden plantings will be completed as weather permits.



### ❖ Taco Bell Construction Inspections, 600 block N 12<sup>th</sup> St

- Appropriate trees, shrubs, and vegetation have been planted and secured with seed mat.
- Construction is completed; erosion and sediment control measures have been removed.
- No illicit discharge detected.
- Taco Bell is open! 😊





## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

- ❖ Bare Root Tree Fall 2023 Grant from TreePennsylvania
  - Inspected trees and watered as needed.
  - Mapped all grant trees in TreeKeeper software and provided required documentation.
  - Bare Root Tree Grant Program Final Report submitted to TreePennsylvania.
    - Provided mapping, documentation of process, and financial match in equivalent workload hours.
    - Fulfilled all grant requirements prior to deadline.

**TREE PENNSYLVANIA**  
PA URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL



- ❖ Cumberland County Land Partnerships Grant:
  - ADA accessible Gaga Ball pit and accessories ordered, shipped, and received.
  - Repaving/ resurfacing of basketball court completed for approved improvements at Memorial Park.
  - New asphalt surface for Gaga Ball foundation installed next to playground equipment.
  - Gaga Ball pit will be installed in early spring when weather permits.

Before Basketball Court



After Basketball Court



Newly installed Gaga Ball pit foundation





## MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

- ❖ Attended Cumberland County Planning Commission meeting
  - County purchased new software for building permits
    - Implementation of new software – Jan 2024
    - Better internal/ external sharing, consistent cohesive process, paperless
  - New CAMA software for MS4/ GIS/ Impervious surface calculator
    - Countywide data updated 1x per year
    - Municipalities able to utilize data as needed
  - Vince McCollum – Cumberland County Conservation District
    - Increase in NPDES permits
    - Newly hired PSU Extension Master Watershed Steward Coordinator & Clean Water Cumberland Director – Natalie Marioni
    - New County Watershed Specialist has been hired; will start Jan 2024
    - New County Recycling Facility coming

- ❖ **THANK YOU to our Maintenance Crew** for the hard work they do all year long. Our MS4 program is so fortunate to have their help. I am so grateful for everything they do for MS4 and our community as a whole!



**\*WISHING ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAY SEASONS AND A JOYFUL 2024!\***