

Highspire Borough's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)

What is Stormwater? Stormwater is rain and snowmelt that flows across impervious surfaces like roads, buildings, and parking areas. During storm events, polluted runoff is collected and conveyed through the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), and then discharged directly into local streams, Buser Run and Burd Run, and the Susquehanna River. The MS4 includes stormwater pipes, inlets, roadways, swales, and detention basins. Stormwater picks up numerous polluting substances as it flows across the ground surface including manure, soil/sediment, fertilizer, chemicals, petroleum products, trash, and bacteria. The purpose of the SWMP is to protect water quality by reducing stormwater pollution.

MS4/Stormwater Permit: Highspire Borough has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges. The permit is managed and enforced by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and requires the Borough to implement best management practices (BMPs) to support six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs):

- MCM #1 Public Education and Outreach
- MCM #2 Public Participation and Involvement
- MCM #3 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- MCM #4 Construction Site Runoff Control
- MCM #5 Post-Construction Stormwater Management
- MCM #6 Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Links: [PADEP webpage](#); [EPA webpage](#)

Documents: [MS4 Permit](#); [MS4 Annual Report](#)

Pollutant Reduction Plan: As part of the MS4 Permit requirements, Highspire Borough developed a Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) and is working to implement projects that reduce the amount of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus that enter local streams and the Susquehanna River. In 2021, the Borough used awarded grant funds to stabilize Burd Run through Memorial Park and plant a riparian forest buffer of native trees and shrubs.

Documents: [Pollutant Reduction Plan](#); [Dauphin County Clean Water Technical Toolbox](#)

Pollutant Control Measures: Highspire Borough must also take measures to identify and eliminate sources of Priority Organic Chemicals (POCs) to the Susquehanna River.

- POCs: Priority Organic Compounds (POCs) include a wide range of chemicals used in industry and persist in sediment and fish tissue. The sources of these chemicals can come from spills, leaks and from poorly maintained hazardous waste sites.

What Can You Do to Protect Water Quality? There are a lot of things that you can do to help the Borough improve water quality:

- Manage stormwater on your own property, build a rain garden, install a rain barrel, wash your car on the lawn, remove turf grass and plant native shrubs and trees
- Keep stormwater inlets clear of grass clippings, leaves and trash. Do not dump anything down a stormwater inlet. Report suspected illicit discharges to the Borough

Links: [Dauphin County Conservation District](#), [Chesapeake Stormwater Network](#); [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#)

Documents: [Homeowner's Guide](#); [Backyard Lawn](#); [Stream Maintenance](#); [MS4 Brochure](#)

Highspire Borough MS4 Webpage

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Links:

PADEP MS4: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/pages/default.aspx>

EPA Stormwater: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources>

Dauphin County Conservation District: <https://www.dauphincd.org/swm/swmgmt.html>

Chesapeake Stormwater: <https://chesapeakestormwater.net/>

Susquehanna River Basin Commission: <https://www.srbc.net/>