

# Stormwater Management for Lower Saucon Township

## Stormwater Regulations

Stormwater is managed and regulated through ordinances by municipalities in accordance with Federal regulations administered by State Permits issued at 5-year intervals. The purpose of this pamphlet is to educate and inform residents about the Lower Saucon Township stormwater management plan. Stormwater drains that collect runoff from roadways and urbanized areas and convey and discharge that water directly into the "waters of the United States" without active water quality treatment are of particular importance. These stormwater drainage systems are called "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems" and are referred to as "MS4" (rather than MSSSS).

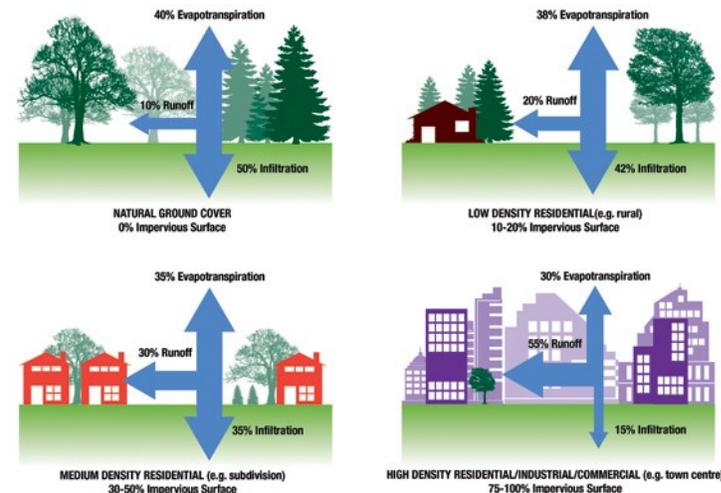
## Why is stormwater management important?

In a natural forested landscape, a significant amount of rainfall infiltrates into the ground, recharges groundwater, ultimately drains to streams, sustains stream flow during dry periods, and keeps stream temperatures cool. When natural vegetation is removed and replaced with agriculture, lawns, and especially rooftops and pavement, less water can infiltrate into the subsurface, and more surface water runoff is generated by the landscape. Storm runoff must be collected by a network of storm drains and conveyed efficiently by storm sewers to avoid road flooding.

## Why are stormwater regulations needed?

Because MS4 storm water is often discharged directly to streams and rivers without treatment at wastewater facilities, the only way to minimize negative environmental impacts is to control the quality of water flowing from the landscape as runoff and collected by storm drains.

## EFFECTS OF IMPERVIOUSNESS ON RUNOFF AND INFILTRATION



## We have the knowledge... now what?

By informing township residents that stormwater drains and stormwater catch basins and detention ponds pass water directly to natural streams or directly into the subsurface without active treatment, it is hoped that these facilities will not be used for waste disposal or dumping.

Diligent erosion control and proper waste management will help ensure that our streams, waterways, and groundwater quality are maintained at the highest levels possible to preserve healthy ecosystem function and water supply.

## There are a few ways that we can manage stormwater as individuals:

1. Do not use drains to dispose waste or dump chemicals.
2. Rain barrels can be an effective way to capture stormwater and repurpose it for use in your garden or watering your lawn.
3. Follow us at our website for more information on helpful tips and educational events:

<http://www.lowersauconenvironment.org>

