

## MS4 MATTERS

*What is an MS4 and where do MS4 regulations come from?*

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) prohibits the discharge of pollutants into United States' waterways without an associated permit. Pennsylvania and its Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) regulate the discharge of pollutants through multiple programs in order to meet the runoff related requirements set forth by the federal CWA. The MS4 program in particular regulates and permits discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). An MS4 is a system of stormwater conveyances (i.e. storm drains, pipes, ditches, and outfalls) that drain directly to waterways and are owned by a state, city, town, village, or other public entity.

Borough of Birdsboro is a regulated MS4, therefore the township is required to develop and implement a stormwater management program which incorporates six minimum control measures to reduce contaminated stormwater runoff:

- Public education and outreach
- Public involvement and participation
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance

Untreated or uncontrolled stormwater runoff is the leading cause of impairment to our local waterways and the number one cause of water pollution throughout the United States. Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt (yes, excess dirt in our waterways is a pollutant) and other pollutants then flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal water, completely untreated. Pennsylvania's MS4 program is ultimately aimed at protecting water quality through pollution reduction at a municipal level.



**Be the solution to stormwater pollution!**

**Dirt, debris, garbage, and chemicals that run into our storm drains will flow (untreated) to our rivers.**