

## Blair Township Conquering Stormwater Runoff

---

The Blair Township Office recently introduced a rain garden to the community and will soon begin construction for a retention pond. Rain gardens and retention ponds are depressed areas that allow rain water to collect and slowly soak into the ground. Rain gardens are planted with native grasses and flowering perennials that filter nutrients, chemicals, and sediments from the rainwater. Retention ponds are slightly different. They are permanent pools of standing water that assist with flood management and water quality.

To see your communities stormwater projects in action visit the Blair Township Office. Become informed and spread the news.



## Blair County's Stormwater Program

---

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulate stormwater runoff, including runoff from Blair County owned sewer systems. In response, the County implements a stormwater management program which is a multi-faceted approach that includes:

- Public education and outreach on stormwater impacts
- Public involvement/participation in activities targeted to improve stormwater quality
- Detection and elimination of illicit discharges to the storm sewer
- Requirements for construction site runoff controls
- Requirements to provide long-term stormwater management practices for new construction
- Standard operating procedures to minimize/eliminate negative impacts from tenant and contractor activities
- Implementation of stormwater best management practices to reduce pollutant loads.

For questions or comments concerning Blair County's Stormwater Management Program please contact:

---

***Blair County Conservation District, Stormwater Coordinator at (814)- 696-0877 ext. 5 or Blair Township at (814)- 696-4363***



## Stormwater Runoff Impacts

---

and the Impact You Can Make



*Information concerning Blair County's Stormwater Management Program can be found at:*  
[cleanblairwater.org](http://cleanblairwater.org)



## What is an Illicit Discharge?

Any substance other than stormwater entering the storm sewer/receiving waterbody that threatens public safety, public health, and the environment is known as an illicit discharge. They occur when pollutants are poured directly in a storm drain or stream, as well as, being left on the ground and picked up by runoff. Examples include:

- Vehicle or equipment washing
- Hydraulic fluid or fuel leaks
- Excessive application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers
- Dumping of trash or other waste

## What is NOT an Illicit Discharge?

- Fire-fighting activities
- Water line washing
- Landscape or lawn irrigation

These discharges may flow into the storm sewer or waterway without consequence.

## What Can You Do to Protect Our Streams?

**Report Illicit Discharge:** On Blair Township property, if you see an illicit discharge, a potential source for an illicit discharge, or witness illegal dumping, you should contact the Township Office at (814)-696-4363. If a discharge is observed that is discolored or has an odor, immediately contact emergency services by calling 9-1-1.

**Do not cause an illicit discharge:** Be mindful when performing activities that could introduce pollutants to stormwater runoff.

- ⇒ Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste
- ⇒ Clean up vehicle fluid or fuel leaks and spills
- ⇒ Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as automotive oil, cooking oil, paint, cleaners, etc.
- ⇒ Apply pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers per manufacturer's specifications



*Blair Gap Run , original photo  
courtesy of Downstream Outdoors*

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation such as rain or snow that flows over ground surfaces. This has been dramatically increased by human development due to the result of impervious (hardened) roadways, rooftops, and parking lots not allowing the water to soak into the ground. The result is an increased volume of rainfall swiftly running off into local creeks and streams.

## Stormwater Impacts

Receiving waters downstream of storm sewer systems are impacted by the increased volume and velocity of runoff along with the pollutants transported within the runoff.

**Flooding:** Stormwater runoff from intense rainfall can exceed the carrying capacity of the stormwater system and waterways, leading to the flooding of roads, yards, and structures.

**Erosion:** Uncontrolled stormwater rapidly increases the amount of runoff flowing into a stream which can wash away the stream bank and transport sediment downstream impacting aquatic habitat and water quality.

**Pollution:** Stormwater runoff flows across surfaces such as parking lots and roadways mobilizing contaminants like animal waste, chemicals, hydraulic oil, and trash. These contaminants are then transported downstream to streams, rivers, and ultimately the ocean, harming aquatic habitats and preventing recreational use in waterways.