

## East Lampeter Township Stormwater Fee Frequently Asked Questions



### Doesn't the Township already have a stormwater system in place?

East Lampeter Township has had a stormwater system in place for many years. In recent years, the increased Federal and State mandates have required a comprehensive stormwater quality and management program. Through the assistance of consultants, East Lampeter Township has developed a stormwater program and now a stormwater fee could ensure that there is adequate support to meet the requirements of the permit. The fee would be used to cover the cost for increased inspection and maintenance of best management practice facilities and infrastructure as well as for the

design and construction of water quality improvement projects.

### How much will the stormwater fee be for a typical resident?

All landowners with impervious surface on their property would pay a fee, including non-profits. The amount would differ based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. At this time, the draft stormwater fee project for a landowner with approximately 2,100 square feet of impervious surface on their property is estimated to be between \$5.50-\$6.50 per month which is equal to one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).

### What is impervious surface?

Any surface that water cannot soak through, highly compacted crushed stone, gravel, rooftops, etc. Water either sits on top of it or runs off of it and thus the surface is not pervious. As water moves along hard surfaces pollutants and trash can be gathered within the water.



### Am I just being taxed more?

Property taxes are based on the assessed value of the property, a stormwater fee is not a tax and is based on how much a property contributes to stormwater runoff through the amount of impervious surface on the property. Tax-exempt properties would be required to pay the stormwater fee as well if there is impervious surface on the property. There is no correlation between assessed values and impervious surface on a given property. East Lampeter Township is located within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and is required to reduce the volume and improve quality of stormwater that flows into local streams, creeks, and rivers that eventually enter the Bay.

### What are the advantages of a fee rather than a tax?

Under a fee-based system, a credit can be offered to landowners that reduce the quantity or improve the quality of stormwater leaving their property. East Lampeter Sewer Authority will be developing a credit policy to reduce the fees to those landowners that assist in meeting the requirements of the EPA/PA DEP in a given permit cycle.

How would properties be billed?

It is anticipated that if you currently receive a sanitary sewer bill, the stormwater fee would be added to that bill on a quarterly basis as a separate line item. Those landowners that have on-lot septic systems would receive a new quarterly statement for the stormwater fee.



How will the proposed stormwater fee be determined?

The implementation of the stormwater fee has not been taken lightly by East Lampeter Township. The Board of Supervisors, along with Township staff and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee have taken into consideration the current condition of stormwater facilities in the Township, future projects that will need to occur to meet the regulatory requirements, and the capital improvements that will be necessary to rehabilitate or replace stormwater facilities to project expenses over the next 5- and 10-year periods. The overall costs were then divided by the number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) within the Township to determine the potential stormwater fee.

When may the first billing for the stormwater fee be sent to property owners?

Spring of 2020 is the anticipated date of the first stormwater bills.

