

Why Do We Need a Storm Water Fee?

Many of you have probably noticed the additional line item on your water and sewer bill pertaining to storm water. This fee is charged by the Deerfield Regional Storm Water District to address water quality and water quantity issues in the Township. Although it appears on the water / sewer bill, it is not related to your drinking water or sewer service.

By 2008, Deerfield Township, along with other area municipalities, must be in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act. We are required to address issues in six categories:

- **Public Education and Outreach:** This includes developing and distributing printed materials, setting up a web site with storm water quality information, tagging storm drains, developing educational programs for school children, organizing community projects, setting up a storm water hotline, and develop tributary signage.
- **Public Information and Involvement:** The District must conduct public meetings and work with community groups to “adopt” streams and storm drains in the Township.
- **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:** We need to map all home septic systems, identify illicit connections to the storm drain system, develop a storm drain map, and establish a hotline to report illegal dumping and illicit discharge.
- **Construction Site Runoff Control:** This involves drafting regulatory guidelines controlling runoff at construction sites one acre or larger and developing a certification program for contractors.
- **Post Construction Site Runoff Control:** The District will help develop master plans and zoning regulations to promote water quality by guiding growth away from sensitive areas in the Township.
- **Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping:** This pertains to internal operation within Deerfield Township including employee training, salt storage facilities, and pollution prevention and spill prevention plans.

The District has been working with Deerfield Township, the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Warren County Engineers Office to accomplish many of these goals, but we still have several requirements to finish such as storm drain tagging, “adopting” streams and storm drains, mapping home septic systems and the storm drain system, and recommending zoning regulations. The District also anticipates the possibility of additional requirements from the EPA after these mandates are completed.

Along with these water quality issues, the District is also responsible for water quantity issues such as flooding. While Deerfield Township is able to tackle such issues on public property, they cannot legally work on private property. The District will be looking at storm water problems that occur on private property such as improper drainage and streambed sedimentation and erosion.

For more information about the District, storm water issues, or the federal mandates, visit our web site at www.deerfieldstormwater.com. A board member can be reached by e-mailing admin@deerfieldstormwater.com or by leaving a message with Deerfield Township at 683-5805.