

IMPORTANT UPDATE:
WE RECEIVED A GRANT!

YOUR ACTIONS CAN HAVE A POSITIVE **IMPACT** ON OUR COMMUNITY **WATERWAYS**



Created and designed by the stormwater commission

STORMWATER COMMISSION UPDATE

We've been hard at work...

We got a Grant! With the help of RVE and the SWC, Langhorne Manor applied for and was recently awarded a DEP Growing Greener grant of \$230,000. This will go a long way towards funding the proposed Comly Avenue water quality improvement project which will consist of a stormwater detention basin, raingarden, and related stormwater conveyance infrastructure. Once the project design has been finalized, look for community updates from the LMB council and RVE.

Can I help the SWC?

Yes! This newsletter contains healthy practices that keep our streams pristine, and cautions against other activities so we can preserve our watershed for the next generation. Making sure you are doing your part, and encouraging your neighbors to do the same, helps the SWC immensely. In addition, the commission's monthly meetings are open to the public, and are listed on the LMB community calendar online. **Join us!**

WHAT DOES THE LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH STORMWATER COMMISSION (SWC) DO?

The team consists of six residents and one council member who, together with the borough manager and the borough's stormwater engineering firm, Remington Vernick Engineers (RVE), guide the borough through the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) MS4 process. MS4 is short for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System and LMB's storm drains qualify as an MS4. The SWC is tasked with keeping our storm system clean and preventing it from negatively impacting the Mill Creek and Neshaminy Creek watersheds.

A main goal of the SWC is to recommend projects that will satisfy our DEP MS4 mandate to reduce the amount of pollution entering our watersheds. In addition to things like trash, chemicals, and other obvious pollutants, this includes sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus. Sediment comes from our yards and gardens and finds its way into our streams, clogging and changing the shape and depth of our waterways, affecting water quality, and impacting the wildlife that depend on our creeks. Nitrogen and phosphorus come from fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, decaying grass clippings and garden detritus, and animal waste. Increased levels of these substances can encourage unnatural levels of algae and plant growth, which then choke out fish, insects, and other aquatic species. The

SWC is here to help find ways to keep these harmful substances out of our water.

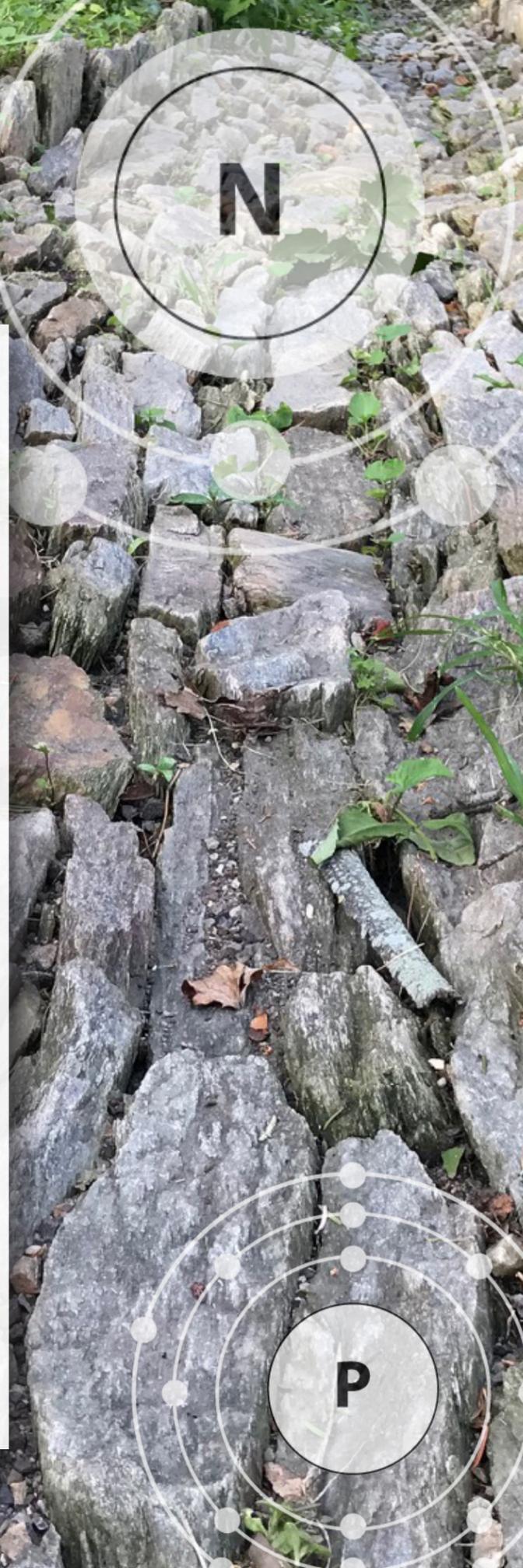
One reason the SWC was formed is the hesitation on the part of the community to disturb our unique stone swales. The previous MS4 plan submitted to the DEP years ago involved substantial modifications to these swales. Instead, the SWC is pursuing other viable options that will allow the historic structures to remain untouched.

Early Dutch settlers mimicked Native American methods to plant sycamore trees near water sources, and a few of these 17th-century trees still stand to this day along a tributary feeding the Neshaminy Creek.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A SWALE?

Langhorne Manor is unique in that it has very few curbs and gutters to convey rainwater directly into the storm sewers. In fact, the Manor utilizes alternative systems that can lead to healthier streams and rivers. When there is no stone-lined swale in the right-of-way, many residents don't realize they still may have a system that helps convey, percolate, and dissipate rainwater.

These include grass-lined ditches that run parallel to the road edge, and simple grassy depressions in lawns. These less obvious stormwater features allow rainwater to make its way downhill more slowly, giving it more time to be absorbed into the ground. Percolation into the ground is nature's way of filtering out pollutants before they reach our streams where they can do damage. When we allow water to remain on our lawns after a storm, we're caring for our streams.



Samples of swales

ROCK LINED SWALE



VERY LITTLE VEGETATION

GRASS SWALE



GRASS AND NO ROCKS

SWALE WITH ROCKS + VEGETATION



ROCKS COVERED BY GRASS



Recycling clippings back into the lawn is less work than disposing of them and you will reduce your mowing time by nearly 40%, and spend less money on fertilizer and trash bags.

How should I maintain my swale?



Whether you have a stone swale, a grassy ditch to convey stormwater, or just a depression in your lawn that helps percolate rainwater, you can do your part to maintain our healthy streams.

- 1 There's no need to keep our rock-lined swales 100% weed-free. In fact, some managed vegetation is beneficial because it slows down rushing water, prevents erosion, and allows for filtration back into the earth.
- 2 Don't use concrete or asphalt to seal between stones, as that prevents water from seeping into the ground, which is nature's way of filtering out harmful pollutants.
- 3 Refrain from using herbicides and weed killers like Roundup directly in the swales. These chemicals wash directly into our storm sewers and end up in our creeks, killing wildlife and degrading water quality.



What about lawn clippings, leaf waste, and garden waste? Can't I return it to the woods?

Green and brown waste dumping is a leading source of pollution, and can alter the natural biodiversity of an area, including spreading nonnative plants and changing the habitat for wildlife. Decaying plant matter makes its way into our waterways, clogging creeks, causing detrimental algae growth, and harming wildlife.

The LMB Stormwater Commission encourages its residents to properly dispose of all garden waste materials. As a reminder, Republic Services now picks up garden waste with all regular trash pickups.

Please be sure to keep all lawn clippings out of our streets, swales, and storm sewers, and remind any landscaping services to do the same. [Streets and Sidewalk Ordinance, 1994](#).



What about animal waste?

For the same water quality reasons, animal waste must also be kept out of our streams and storm sewers. Please abide by the [Animal Defecation Ordinance, 2012](#) which requires residents to not allow their pets to defecate upon any gutter, street, driveway, alley, curb or sidewalk in the Borough and not put it in other people's trash cans.

For more information on our stormwater initiatives, be sure to visit our website!



- agriculture
- animals
- beauty
- clippings
- copper
- dirt
- environment
- fertilizer
- garbage
- grass
- gutters
- lead
- leaves
- nitrate
- pesticides
- phosphorous
- rain
- salt
- sediment
- trash
- wastewater
- wildlife

K B P Y S V A W T G I X S S S W U K Z X
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You can find the solution here:
langhornemanor.org



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