

What Actions Must the Borough Take Under the MS4 Program, and What PRP Projects Have Been Identified?

The Borough is operating under NPDES Permit No. PAG136175, which expires on March 31, 2026. Under this permit, the impaired waterways in urban areas have been identified as the Fish Run, Lowries Run and Pine Creek watersheds. The Borough must establish a Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) that details actions to be taken in each watershed to remove a total of 242,835 pounds of sediment annually from these watersheds. The deadline for completion of these projects is March 31, 2024.

The Borough has received approval from the PADEP for its PRP, which includes the following five (5) projects, projected to remove 262,411 pounds of sediment annually:

1. Fish Run Watershed Stream Restoration – a 2,200 linear foot section of Fish Run has been identified as showing signs of stream bank erosion, resulting in excess sediment entering the stream and negatively impacting stream health. In addition, stream bank erosion reduces the effectiveness of the surrounding wetlands area. The work to be done includes the grading of the stream bank to provide a more gradual slope to the stream, planting of appropriate trees and shrubs to hold the streambanks in place and provide shade for the stream, and the addition of natural enhancements including rock and log step pools, toe wood with brush layering, rootwads, and rock constructed ripples. This will improve not only water quality, but also provide a much more stable and welcoming habitat for aquatic animals and insects. Grading of the stream banks will also reconnect the stream to its surrounding wetlands. This section of Fish Run is located on Borough property, as well as one private property. The Borough has received preliminary approval from the property owner.
2. Fish Run Watershed Northmont Farms Detention Pond Retrofit – a 13,940 square foot detention pond located on Borough property in the above section of Fish Run will be converted to an infiltration pond. Standard detention ponds are installed to collect stormwater and then release it over a 48-hour period, thereby slowing the flow of water into neighboring streams during heavy rain events. Conversion to an infiltration pond will allow the facility to hold water for up to 72 hours, thereby allowing more water to infiltrate and recharge the local water table rather than simply flowing to a downstream location.
3. Lowries Run Watershed Stream Restoration – a 2,460 linear foot section of an unnamed tributary to Bear Run along Montgomery Road shows similar characteristics to Fish Run as detailed above. The actions to be taken to remedy the situation are the same as those detailed above. The tributary runs through three (3) private properties, and all property owners have given preliminary approval.
4. Pine Creek Watershed Ramblewood Pond Retrofit – a 54,450 square foot detention pond located on private property will be converted to an infiltration pond. The property owner has given preliminary approval.
5. Pine Creek Watershed Matterhorn Detention Pond Retrofit – a 10,890 square foot detention pond located on private property. The property owner has given preliminary approval.

The Borough has applied for a Joint Permit Application through PADEP and the US Army Corps of Engineers for each of these projects. The Borough will have Easement Agreements in place for each of these projects to allow access for the work, and for continued future maintenance. The Borough will be solely responsible for all maintenance of these projects moving forward.

Revised November 15, 2023