



JULY 2016

### Introduction

As the sign says, Freemansburg is a "Canal Town". Given its beauty and history, it's no surprise the canal is a great source of pride for the community. What you may not know is that preserving its character is directly related to how we manage our stormwater runoff. Much, if not most, of the rain falling on the Borough eventually ends up in the Canal. Properly managing our stormwater is essential in preserving one of the Borough's most precious resources.

### Stormwater – What is it?

Stormwater runoff occurs when there is more rain or melting ice and snow than the land can absorb. What can't be absorbed flows over the land and into nearby creeks, streams – and canals. The more developed an area is, the more runoff there is. The more runoff there is, the more flooding, habitat damage and water pollution there is. Much of Freemansburg's lands are impervious and don't allow water to absorb. The Borough captures the runoff from our roadways, driveways, sidewalks, rooftops and parking lots in a system of storm drains pipes and channels and directs it to the Canal.

### MS4 Program –

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) oversees the Borough's stormwater discharges. As the operator of an MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System – the Borough must obtain a permit and develop and implement a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). Mandatory requirements of the SWMP include six (6) Minimum Control Measures

(MCM's). Each MCM has a number of Best Management Practices that explain in more detail how the MCM can be carried out.

The MCM's are as follows:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement/Participation
3. Eliminate and Detect Illicit Discharges
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

### How you can make a difference

Managing stormwater isn't just the job of the Borough. Everyone in the community can make a difference and small steps can make big impacts in creating a more sustainable community. Residents and businesses alike can help reduce and clean stormwater runoff by the following:

- Install rain gardens and rain barrels
- Landscape with native plants and shrubs
- Install pervious walkways and patios
- Use less pesticides and fertilizers
- Dispose of hazardous wastes properly
- Don't litter
- Wash cars on the lawn
- Do not drain chlorinated pool water directly to the storm sewers

By adhering to the steps set out in the Borough's Storm Water Management Plan, we can all help improve the quality of life within the Borough and preserve the beauty and integrity of our "Canal Town".

### Canal view



*The Canal is one of the Borough's most precious resources providing beauty, recreation and habitat.*

### No Dumping in the Storm Drains



*Dumping wastes or dirty water into storm drain inlets can have severe impacts on the Canal.*

### Discharge to the River



*View of the Canal discharge to the Lehigh River.*