

STORM WATER 101

CHAPTER 6: WHY IS GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

By Anne Stock, Broadway Avenue

As the previous installments of Stormwater 101 have shown, many things find their way into the storm water in the Borough and many of them are harmful to our rivers and streams. To prevent this pollution from continuing to impact the quality of our local water bodies, the Federal government and the State government have stepped in. They have imposed numerous conditions on our storm water as well as our sanitary sewer flows. Dormont is required to meet all governmental regulations/laws established by these governing bodies.



Below are just a few examples of the government mandates, and the agencies placing those mandates on our storm water. Each of these requirements causes the Borough to have to expend money and/or staff time. And no funding is provided to the Borough to meet these requirements.

Federal:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)

State:

- Clean Streams Law
- Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act 537

County:

- Article XIV: Sewage Disposal Rules and Regulations
- Article XV: Plumbing and Building Drainage

Based on governmental regulations Dormont must do the following:

- Assess the condition of our sewer collection system
- Make critical repairs that will prevent raw sewage from overflowing into our waterways or backing up in homeowner's basements
- Reduce and manage stormwater runoff in our Borough

Next Chapter: Where does Stormwater Go?



STORMWATER 101

Brought to you by the Dormont Council and its Stormwater Advisory Committee

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OUR STORMWATER IN DORMONT

- Well over 80% of rain that falls on Dormont does not soak into the soil but runs off into our storm water sewer system;
- We own a storm sewer system made up of 577 inlets and almost 12 miles of storm water pipe but we only know the size and condition of about one-half of that;
- Almost anything that you throw in the street or apply to your lawn flows into Saw Mill Run and then into the Ohio River;
- Our sanitary sewer system and the storm sewer system are two different systems;
- We put over 90 Tons of sediment into Saw Mill Run per year;
- We are under orders from EPA to achieve a total reduction of 73% of sediment and 95% of nutrients that we contribute to the Ohio River;
- There are homes in Dormont that have incurred severe flooding damage due to storm water runoff and an antiquated storm water sewer system.