



STORMWATER UTILITY FEE BEING DEVELOPED

you're
INVITED

Property owners are invited to join us at public meetings **on December 7th, 2023 and January 18th, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the Borough of Conshohocken Building at 400 Fayette Street Conshohocken PA, 19428.**

WHAT IS GOING ON?

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) requires the Borough of Conshohocken to manage stormwater through its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program and implement a pollutant reduction plan. If the Borough of Conshohocken Authority (Authority) fails to address stormwater concerns, including improving local water quality, PADEP and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may impose fines. In addition to state and federal requirements, the Authority must also manage the costs of maintaining its stormwater infrastructure and addressing flooding concerns.

Currently, property owners in the Borough of Conshohocken pay to maintain the stormwater system through property taxes. The issue with using taxes is that a property's assessed value does not correlate with the amount of stormwater it contributes to the system. Furthermore, tax-exempt

properties, while benefitting from the stormwater program, do not contribute financially due to their tax-exempt status. If stormwater program costs continue to be covered by property taxes, taxes would need to increase, inequitably affecting property owners.

As a result, the Borough of Conshohocken Authority (Authority) evaluated and considered alternative methods for funding the stormwater program. The Authority has determined that the costs of the stormwater program are most equitably met through a stormwater fee which is assessed based on the amount of impervious area on each property. The Authority is providing information to the public to be transparent in the process and approach and to aid in public awareness and understanding of the upcoming changes to the program.

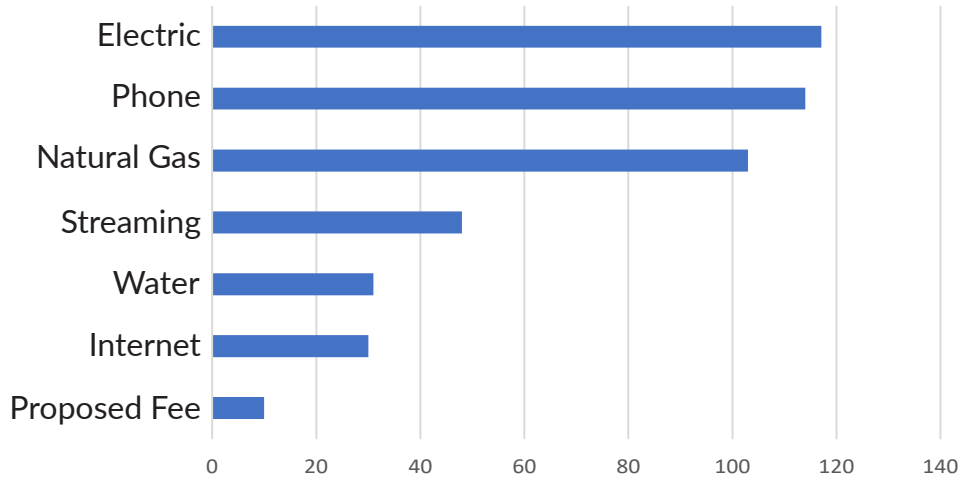
WHAT TO EXPECT?

The Authority explored the development of a utility to fund the stormwater program. The Authority elected to use aerial imagery to develop the amount of impervious surface on each property within the Borough. By using the impervious area data, the Authority was able to establish a method for cost distribution and determine the appropriate fee allocation for each property. The draft budget results in an anticipated fee of roughly \$6.50 per 1000 sf of impervious area.

The addition of a stormwater fee is not intended to add burden on property owners and is low compared to other utility fees. Furthermore, property owners have the opportunity to reduce their fee through appeals or through stormwater credits that will be outlined in the Authority's credit and appeal manual.

Anticipated stormwater fees for average single family residential customers

\$10 PER MONTH



Data for average costs are from Ana Durrani and Samantha Allen in Forbes, "Monthly Costs in the U.S. by State," <https://www.forbes.com/home-improvement/living/monthly-utility-costs-by-state/> (March 2023)

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

There are stormwater needs throughout the Borough such as aging and deteriorating infrastructure and flooding concerns that must be addressed in the upcoming years regardless of the work required by the MS4 permit. Neglecting these maintenance needs can have severe consequences. For instance, when pipes fail, the road above the pipe can deteriorate, leading to sinkholes and necessitating further repairs. Similar to a leaky roof, the longer maintenance needs are ignored, the more expensive they become.



11
MILES
OF PIPE

That is almost the distance from
Conshohocken to Center City
Philadelphia



689
INLETS

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

The proposed fee is expected to begin in 2024, with the first bills sent out in April. The stormwater fee will be included on the existing sanitary sewer bill wherever possible and will be billed on a quarterly basis.

The Authority is providing information at two public meetings, to aid in public awareness and understanding of the Borough's stormwater concerns. **Public meetings will be held at the Borough of Conshohocken Building at 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA 19428 on December 7th, 2023 and January 18th, 2024 at 6:30PM.**

Additionally, information can be found on our website <https://www.conshohockensa.com/> and social media @ Borough of Conshohocken Authority (Facebook).

Additionally, stormwater management extends beyond permit requirements and infrastructure maintenance—it is a matter of public health and safety. Proper management of stormwater helps reduce flooding, minimizes the risk of property damage, and mitigates potential threats to human health.

**OVER \$3
MILLION**
NEEDED FOR STORMWATER
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
& POLLUTION REDUCTION
PROJECTS

Projects to fulfill these improvements and State and Federal requirements will require substantial funding. Establishing a stormwater fee will generate the necessary funds for addressing infrastructure improvements, fulfilling permit requirements, conducting maintenance and repairs, and ultimately safeguarding public health and safety. The fee structure based on impervious area ensures that those who contribute more stormwater runoff to the system bear a proportionate share of the costs, promoting fairness and equity in funding the stormwater management program. The implementation of the stormwater fee will enable the Authority to undertake a wider range of stormwater projects throughout the Borough.



Schuylkill River in Conshohocken. Image from: 6ABC