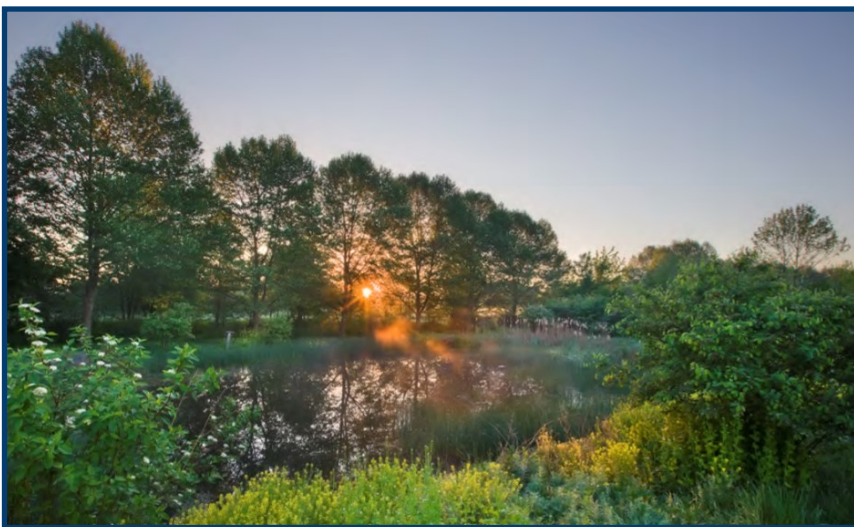







MAINTAINING YOUR BMPs

Under Minimum Control Measure (MCM) 5, municipalities with a Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) like West Earl Township are required to ensure that all owners of stormwater best management practices (BMP) are performing routine maintenance on their BMP and that it is operating as intended. This is also a requirement within the Township's stormwater ordinance. The Township will use an Operations & Maintenance Verification Form (*discussed on next page*) to track and measure each BMP owner's progress.

Stormwater BMPs come in many forms, including rain gardens, constructed wetlands (*photo on left*), vegetated swales, porous pavement (*photo on right*), and streambank restoration. Each has its own maintenance needs and issues, which are described in great detail in the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium's (LCCWC) **Homeowner's Guide: Best Management Practices - Operations & Maintenance** guide. You can pick up a copy from the Township to help with your own BMP.



Common Maintenance Tasks

-  Clearing blocked structures (such as inlets and grates)
-  Spraying and removing weeds
-  Stabilizing eroded areas
-  Planting new vegetation
-  Mowing and pruning
-  Cleaning out debris (such as trash and sediment)



Where to Find Your BMP Maintenance Requirements?

The design plans for your home or business, including the BMPs, were likely submitted to West Earl Township for approval. The Township would consider the long term maintenance of the BMP before approving the plans. You can find the details of the required maintenance within a Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Plan, Stormwater Maintenance Plan, or similar. If you do not have a copy of the plan, the Township may be able to provide a copy to you. The relevant sections to review include the General Notes, the Operation and Maintenance Notes, and the Landscape Plan (also referred to as a Planting Plan).

Writing Your Own Operations & Maintenance Plan

The LCCWC's BMP Operations & Maintenance guide is a great place to find information to include in your own BMP plan. Generally, the plan should include the following:

WHO will be responsible for BMP inspection and maintenance

WHAT is being inspected and what maintenance activities will occur

WHEN the activities will take place

WHERE the BMPs are located

HOW each BMP will be specifically maintained

Issues to Look Out For



Accumulation of soil, trash, and other debris in grates, outlets, and other portions of the BMP (see photo on left)



Standing water that does not drain away within 72 hours, which could lead to mosquito issues (see photo in middle)



Structural damage to BMP that reduces or negates its efficacy



Animal burrows or nests impacting the BMP (see photo on right)



Lack of appropriate vegetation that could lead to erosion and presence of weeds



Operations & Maintenance Verification

West Earl Township is here to provide information to help with required operations and maintenance of privately-owned and publicly-owned stormwater BMPs to reduce the long term costs and use of Township resources to conduct field investigations and inspections. This will help the Township meet its MS4 permit requirements and reduce the potential for polluted discharges into local waterways.

As a BMP owner, the Township may inspect your BMP to ensure that it is being maintained and is operating appropriately. They may also request that you to return an Operations & Maintenance Verification Form to them within the calendar year. In return, the Township will provide all BMP owners with information on the expected and required maintenance for their BMP(s) annually.

For More Information

- Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium—www.lccwc.com
- PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Municipal Stormwater Information—www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/default.aspx
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Municipal Stormwater Information—<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources>