

CURRENTS

Engage with our Stormwater Strategic Planning Process

Share stormwater challenges and priorities using new interactive web portal

**Next Board Meeting:
August 26**

For a complete list of PWSA's board and community meetings, please visit [Pgh2o.com/events-meetings](https://pgh2o.com/events-meetings).

Following COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are held virtually and may be tentative or postponed.

Stormwater Strategic Plan

PWSA is initiating a collaborative community process to develop a Stormwater Strategic Plan to serve as Pittsburgh's blueprint to address local stormwater challenges.

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PGH₂O Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) is developing a long-term stormwater management strategy that will serve as Pittsburgh's blueprint to address local stormwater challenges, capacity issues within the sewer system, and combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows to improve water quality.

This stormwater strategic plan builds off past planning efforts, uses climate change data and community input, and prioritizes public health and safety to provide an inclusive and sustainable way to address one of our region's most challenging problems. The broad goals of the plan are to reduce flooding, improve quality of life for residents, develop solutions

that address wet weather challenges, and incorporate broad public and stakeholder support.

As part of PWSA's stormwater strategic plan and related outreach efforts, we've launched an interactive web portal on the City of Pittsburgh's EngagePGH website. Here the Pittsburgh community can plot on a map the location of stormwater issues like basement backups, overland flooding, and maintenance concerns. Community members can also rank topics they'd like to see addressed and pose stormwater-related questions to PWSA's stormwater project managers.

The initial phase of the stormwater strategic plan looked through the four lenses

of water quality, localized flooding, environmental justice, and opportunity locations for future stormwater projects and green infrastructure. Stormwater Community Ambassadors, organized by Grounded Strategies, were recruited to conduct surveys and were our boots on the ground hearing directly from residents in the areas where these factors most aligned. These locations include Four Mile Run, Negley and Heth's Run, Soho Run, South 21st Street, Homewood and Larimer, Saw Mill Run, Woods Run, Hazelwood, and Sheraden.

The survey results, along with a full report from the first phase of the stormwater strategic plan, will be posted to our website for public comment later this summer. In early fall, we'll host a community meeting to share recommendations from the plan as well as next steps regarding our stormwater strategic planning efforts. The next phase of our planning process focuses on modeling our sewer system to understand its capacity and will begin to define an equitable level of stormwater protection we can provide across Pittsburgh.

Visit engage.pittsburghpa.gov/stormwater to engage in the planning process, or pgh2o.com/stormwater-strategic-plan-faq for more information.

Join our email list to get the latest news and updates.

Signing up is simple at pgh2o.com/subscribe.





Additional Stormwater Resources

Explore the resources below for additional information about the stormwater fee, including the stormwater credit program, customer assistance and a web map where you can search your property.

STORMWATER CREDIT PROGRAM: Our Stormwater Credit Program offers a discount on the monthly stormwater fee. Property owners choosing to manage stormwater on site may reduce their monthly stormwater charge. Installing stormwater management systems such as a rain garden or an underground stormwater system on private property are examples of how a private property owner may earn a credit. Find out more information and apply at pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee.

FEE FINDER WEBSITE: Use our searchable map to view the amount of impervious surface on your property and understand your stormwater fee. To use the site:

- Launch the [Fee Finder Website](#)
- Enter your address in the search bar and press enter
- Click inside the boundaries of your property to view details about its impervious surface and the number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERU's)
- To determine your fee amount, multiply the number of ERU's by the stormwater rate of \$5.96 and subtract any credits that may apply

DISPUTING STORMWATER FEE: If you have questions about the amount of impervious surface calculated for your property or believe there is a discrepancy, please contact our Customer Service department by calling 412-255-2423 (Press 5), to start the process.

Visit pgh2ostormwater.com for more information about our plans to manage stormwater.

Please call PWSA Customer Service at **412-255-2423 (Press 5)** or email info@pgh2o.com for questions about the stormwater fee or general questions about the credit program.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Donate to the Hardship Grant Program online at Pgh2o.com/give.

Enroll in eBilling

Convenient and easy to use, our online billing and payment portal ensures timely delivery of bills and payments.

Visit Pgh2o.com/ebilling to enroll.

Penn Liberty Plaza 1
1200 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Customer Service*

T 412.255.2423 (Press 5)
info@pgh2o.com

**translation services available*

Emergency Dispatch*

412.255.2423 (Press 1)
Available 24/7

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WATER WISE

Bioswales and Rain Gardens: What Are They?



This cascading bioswale at Centre and Herron in the Hill District is 585 feet long!

Engineers and landscape architects use the terms “bioswale” and “rain garden” to describe certain types of green infrastructure that are designed to manage stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces by mimicking nature.

A bioswale is a long channel or trench that has vegetation and soil, mulch, or stones to slow down rainwater and filter out pollutants. “Bio” refers to the living vegetation, while “swale” means a low or hollow place that is often wet.

A rain garden is a depressed area in the landscape planted with vegetation and designed to collect rainwater, filter out pollutants, and soak the water into the ground.

Although they sound similar, bioswales are designed to slow down rainwater through a curving or linear path, while rain gardens are designed to capture, store, and infiltrate rainwater in a bowl shape.