

CURRENTS

2022 Stormwater Project Roundup

PWSA completes six new stormwater projects this year



Clockwise from top left: Maryland Avenue, Woodland Road, Wightman Park Phase Two, Volunteers Field, Lawn and Ophelia, and Thomas and McPherson projects.

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) has made large strides in 2022 to expand our stormwater program. The stormwater fee, which went into effect in January, provides equitable funding for PWSA services that manage stormwater runoff in our community.

In addition to operating and maintaining existing stormwater infrastructure, we are designing and building innovative stormwater projects to help reduce overflows of sewage into the rivers, basement backups, pollution

from stormwater runoff, and local flooding. Our methods include green stormwater infrastructure, which mimics nature to capture, store, and filter rainwater where it falls.

This year, PWSA staff advanced the planning and design of more than 10 stormwater improvement projects. By the end of 2022, we expect to complete the construction of six new stormwater projects across Pittsburgh.

The Maryland Avenue Stormwater Project in Shadyside was completed in

September. The permeable paver parking lanes and new storm inlets capture stormwater to be held in layers of gravel and storage pipe underground.

Just up the hill, PWSA and Chatham University partnered to create the Woodland Road Stormwater Project on Chatham's Shadyside Campus. This project was completed in

September and includes a dry stream bed, landscaping, and underground storage tanks to slow down and soak up stormwater.

In Squirrel Hill, we completed Phase Two of the Wightman Park Stormwater Project this September. Stormwater "bumpout" planters were installed along neighborhood streets to convey rainwater to storage infrastructure in the newly renovated Wightman Park.

We expect to complete the Thomas and McPherson Stormwater Project in Point Breeze North by the end of

Next Board Meeting: December 16

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.

2022. This project includes underground stormwater storage below either grass, permeable pavers, or asphalt on several streets, as well as water main and lead service line replacements.

In South Oakland, we renovated the Lawn and Ophelia Parklet with a rain garden, landscaping, and street drainage improvements to capture and store more stormwater. Construction of the Lawn and Ophelia Stormwater Project is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

PWSA also partnered with the City of Pittsburgh on the Volunteers Field Drainage and Regrading Project in Carrick this year. This project regraded two ballfields, renovated their drainage systems, and installed a new rain garden to decrease field flooding, improve playability, and reduce pollution into the Saw Mill Run stream.

Learn more about our projects at [Pgh2o.com/search-all-projects](https://pgh2o.com/search-all-projects).

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.

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Customer Service*

T 412.255.2423 (Press 5)

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WATER WISE

Learn How to Remove Snow and Ice Responsibly!



Snow and ice aren't just slipping hazards – they can also cause issues as they melt and become stormwater. When soil freezes in the ground during cold winter temperatures, it loses some of its sponge-like abilities to soak up stormwater. That means melting snow and ice have fewer places to go, which can lead to more flooding. In addition, melting snow and ice can carry environmentally harmful chemicals from de-icing salts to our rivers and streams, hurting water quality and wildlife.

Try these tips to help reduce flooding and pollution:

- Clear out snow surrounding your downspouts. This will allow melting snow from your roof to flow instead of collecting at your foundation, which can help prevent basement flooding.
- Do not pile snow on top of storm drains. Clear off any blocked storm drains near your property.
- Pile snow where it is most likely to be absorbed by the ground when it melts. Chose areas that are relatively flat or do not typically pond during rainstorms.
- Do not over-apply de-icing salt or sand. Shovel or plow before salting.
- Use less-toxic ice removal methods. Try mixing beet juice with de-icing salt to reduce salt use and lower the freezing point.