

MS4 NEWS – Pollutant Reduction Plan Project Update

FARMVIEW BASIN RETROFIT

Why is this Project being Done?

This is one of four projects that must be completed by March 31, 2026 under the Township's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for our Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This permit is mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP) to be compliant with the Federal Clean Waters Act and the Commonwealth's Clean Streams Law. The current 2021-26 Permit Cycle is the inaugural permit cycle requiring physical improvements to our stormwater management system since the MS4 program began in 2004.

What is being done at the Farmview Basin and how does it Work?

The Monocacy Creek and Schoeneck Creek Watersheds have been classified by PA-DEP as impaired by sedimentation pollution – basically dirt and fine particles that impact the health of the streams. Statewide, sedimentation pollution is the most prevalent pollutant in Pennsylvania's streams.

To decrease sediment loading coming from Upper Nazareth, the Farmview Basin will be retrofitted with two types of devices, known as Best Management Practices (BMPs). Forebays will be added where stormwater is discharged into the basin at two locations to slow the velocity of water coming into the basin and capture larger-size particles such as gravel and sand. Low-height "walls" called baffles will be installed to increase the distance water needs to flow from the inflow points to the outflow point – this will give additional time for smaller suspended particles to settle to the basin bottom before the discharge point. This work will convert the basin into what is called an *extended detention basin*. This Project is scheduled to be completed by November of this year pending resolution of current material delivery delays.

