

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PLAN (PEOP)



EVANS CITY BOROUGH Stormwater Management Program Breakneck Creek and Local Tributaries (#35024, 35025, 35026, 35029, and 35030)

Introduction

In March 2018, Evans City Borough joined Pennsylvania's statewide PAG-13 NPDES General Permit covering municipal stormwater discharges. As required, the Borough now operates a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) to comply with the regulatory requirements established in our NPDES Permit #PAG138337 for over fifty Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) outfalls to Breakneck Creek and its local tributaries. In the eyes of the Commonwealth, Breakneck Creek is considered a 'Category 5' receiving water – i.e., impaired for aquatic life use due to sediment load (i.e., soil erosion and other solids). *To date, Pennsylvania DEP has not established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of solids for Breakneck Creek.* The five (5) unnamed tributaries to Breakneck Creek that meander through and along the edges of the Borough are considered 'Category 2', meaning available data indicates the water quality is supportive of aquatic life.

Enhancing environmental stewardship and improving surface water quality through implementation of the SWMP are goals of the Evans City Borough Council. This will be accomplished using six (6) Minimum Control Measures (MCM), and their associated Best Management Practices (BMPs), established in the Borough's NPDES Permit.

MCM #1 involves educating the community regarding the impacts of stormwater pollution and measures to effectively mitigate it. Engaging the community is critical to achieving this goal. This Public Education and Outreach Plan (PEOP) has been developed to comply with Special Condition I-B-1(a) of the NPDES Permit. It is to be reviewed and revised annually by the Stormwater Management Committee.

The goals of the PEOP are:

- Increase the knowledge of Borough residents regarding measures that can be taken to reduce stormwater pollution, placing priority on reducing sedimentation impacts to Breakneck Creek and its local tributaries. Make residents aware that Connoquenessing Creek, to which Breakneck Creek is a major tributary, also is impaired for both sedimentation and nutrients (i.e., phosphorous) -- any measures that Evans City Borough takes will benefit our neighbors in Jackson Township, Harmony Borough, and Zelienople Borough – as well as other communities further downstream.
- Increase the knowledge of Borough residents regarding hazards associated with illegal discharges. There can be significant legal implications associated with improper disposal of waste materials into storm drains.
- Implement multiple educational paths that are likely to have significant impact on residents.

Three (3) initial PEOP paths are being implemented by the Borough in its first permit term (2018-2025). These paths likely will need refined, modified, and/or supplemented during future permit terms as part of the ongoing SWMP.

Public Education Path #1 – Borough Web-Site SWMP/MS4 Page

In 2024, the Stormwater Management Committee will continue to enhance our educational stormwater webpage under the <https://evanscity.us/> banner. At a minimum, our intent is that it includes information and links to:

- Stormwater Management Committee Chair - Contact Information;
- Evans City Borough NPDES Permit Number PAG138337;
- Annual NPDES Compliance Reports to PADEP;
- SPC Water Resource Center Educational Materials on MCMs and BMPs;
- SWMP Component Plans (PEOP, PIPP, IDD&EP, & Borough O&M Plan);
- Select PADEP Stormwater Educational Electronic Resources;
- Evans City Borough's *Pollutant Reduction Plan* (HRG, September 2017); and
- *Lower Connoquenessing Stormwater Planning Study* (HRG, April 2021).

Public Education Path #2 – Printed Materials Available in Public Locations

In early 2024, the Stormwater Management Committee will add one (1) tri-fold brochure relating to the Southwest Butler County Regional Stormwater initiative and one (1) poster relating to the Borough's NPDES Permit, its requirements, and the negative impacts of stormwater pollution. The brochure will be available through the Borough Office, Evans City Public Library, and EDCO Park - at a minimum. The poster will be 11"x17" minimum, color, and laminated. The Stormwater Management Committee will identify two (2) high foot-traffic public locations to place copies of the poster.

Public Education Path #3 – Storm Drain Markers

In 2024, the Stormwater Management Committee will purchase and install storm drain markers on (or near) storm water catch basin and inlet grates. These will serve as public reminders that such inlets lead directly to either Breakneck Creek or one of its local unnamed tributaries and that associated stormwater receives no treatment prior to discharge.