BERKS COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE

Who is the Berks County MS4 Steering Committee?

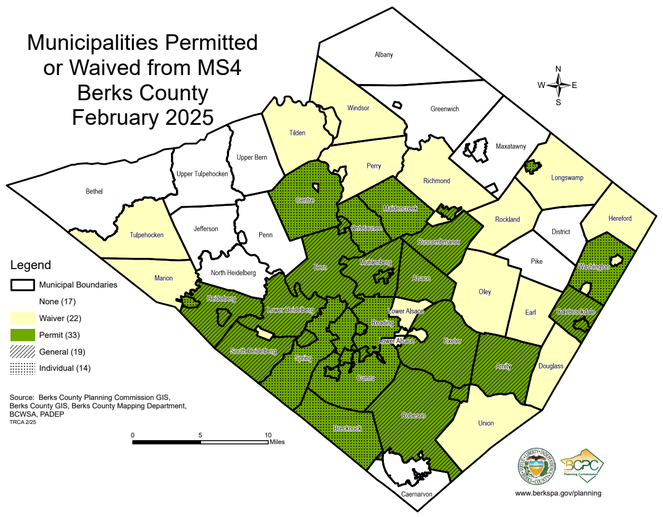
The Berks County MS4 Steering Committee is an intergovernmental committee made of Berks County Municipalities and three Cooperative Education Partners which include the Berks County Planning Commission, Berks Nature and the Berks County Conservation District. The Cooperative Education partners and the municipalities work together to educate everyone on why clean stormwater is important.

What is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)?

An MS4 is a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body that contains a drainage system which conveys only stormwater. The drainage system is made up of curbs, gutters, basins, storm pipes, ditches, swales and municipal streets. The system Does Not include pipes that convey sanitary sewer.

What is an MS4 Permit?

The MS4 Permit is designed to help reduce the discharge of pollutants from the regulated small MS4, to the maximum extent practical, to protect water quality, and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. The permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The SWMP features six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs). Each MCM requires implementation of specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet measurable goals according to an approved schedule.



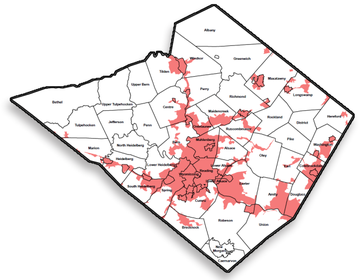
How implementation of the six minimum control measures happens:

MCM 1
Public Education and Outreach

The Berks County MS4 Steering Committee, including the education partners, work together to help educate the community about MS4 regulations and stormwater management.

MCM 2
Public Participation/Involvement

Berks County municipalities designated as MS4 regulated urbanized areas (either participating/not participating in the Berks MS4 Steering Committee) provide opportunities for residents and the public to become engaged with and help implement stormwater management practices. This could include public cleanup efforts, outreach efforts, and more.



MCM 3
Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Municipalities will implement strategies to monitor illicit discharges of substances or materials other than stormwater entering into storm sewer systems. This may include creating a storm sewer system map, creating an ordinance prohibiting illicit discharges, creating a plan to detect and address illicit discharges, and implementing an education program about the hazards associated with illicit discharges.

MCM 4
Construction Site Runoff Control

The Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) oversees the administration of NPDES permitting and compliance in the County. NPDES permits include plans to control for Erosion and Sediment associated with construction activities, which ensure that stormwater leaving construction sites and entering our watersheds is clean and clear.

MCM 5
Post-Construction Runoff Control

The Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) and municipalities oversee the permitting and construction of Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) plans. The Berks County Planning Commission provides review and comment of proposed storm water controls during their land development review process.

MCM 6
Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

Municipalities continue to maintain and monitor the storm sewer system to be sure the system is functioning properly and prevent pollution events from occurring. Additionally municipal employees do regular training to fulfill permit requirements.