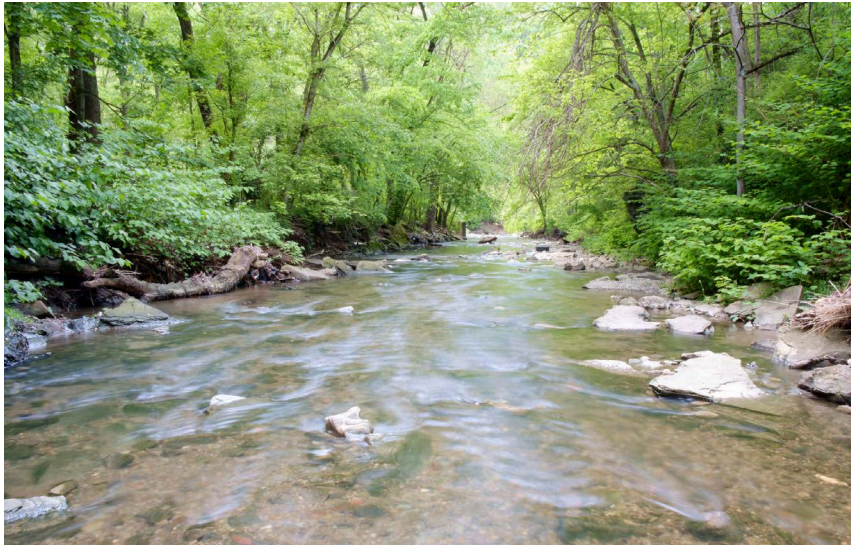


# CURRENTS

Share your thoughts about the Stormwater Strategic Plan



*Saw Mill Run is a beautiful natural resource in Pittsburgh, but water quality issues, erosion, and flooding that can be addressed through improved stormwater management can strengthen neighborhoods and enhance recreational opportunities within the stream.*

Through June 30, 2023, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority encourages customers and the Pittsburgh community to review and provide comment on the [Stormwater Strategic Plan](#). Released before the holidays, we want to provide ample time for review of its recommendations and approach to stormwater management.

The Plan is the first phase of a long-term planning effort to address local stormwater challenges. It considers prevalent issues, such as neighborhood flooding and basement backups, while also looking through the lenses of equity and environmental justice.

In October 2020, the PWSA and the City of Pittsburgh launched a [global search](#) to develop an innovative stormwater approach to address stormwater management in Pittsburgh. With support from the Heinz Endowments, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and the Hillman Foundation, we embarked upon the first phase of this long-term planning effort. In June 2021, [Penn Praxis and The Water Center at Penn](#) were selected by PWSA to lead the stormwater planning efforts.

The Stormwater Strategic Plan is aspirational and should be viewed as a strategic step towards stormwater management. PWSA intends

to use the Plan recommendations to eventually design and implement specific projects that meet a determined level of service to manage stormwater quantity at a rate PWSA customers can afford. As such, this plan presents a strategy to be used in reaching our final goal of delivering cost-effective and environmentally compliant stormwater service.

The Plan builds off past planning efforts by using climate data, previous regional studies, community input, and best practices by our peer utilities to provide recommendations that look at stormwater through the four lenses of: localized flooding, water quality, equity, and opportunity sites to address one of our region’s most challenging problems.

**Recommendations:**

1. Develop and implement a communication framework to increase transparency and understanding of the PWSA strategy and the stormwater fee value proposition
2. Institute a joint task force to develop City-wide action plans for more coordinated and effective management of stormwater

**Next Board Meeting: February 24**

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.

3. Analyze priority areas for investment
4. Define initial investment strategies
5. Establish guiding principles and a comprehensive approach to stormwater and flooding “level of service”

Leverage stormwater fee impact through public and private investment, innovative partnerships and technologies, and job training program We are organizing a series of workshops to provide the Pittsburgh community and stormwater stakeholders with an opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and share input into our ongoing stormwater planning and implementation. Look for more information on our events and meetings webpage.

The Stormwater Strategic Plan is an exciting and timely effort for a cost-effective, inclusive, and sustainable way to address local stormwater problems and ensure that all Pittsburgh neighborhoods are represented. We encourage our ratepayers, stormwater advocates, and members of the Pittsburgh community to participate in the public comment period and learn by attending the upcoming community workshops.

To access downloadable copies of the Plan or to provide public comment, please visit [Pgh2o.com/swsp](https://pgh2o.com/swsp).

Join our email list to get the latest news and updates. Signing up is simple at [pgh2o.com/subscribe](https://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@pgh2o.com)

### Emergency Dispatch\*

412.255.2423 (Press 1)  
Available 24/7

*\*translation services available*

[linkedin.com/company/pgh2o](https://www.linkedin.com/company/pgh2o)

[@pgh2o](https://twitter.com/pgh2o)

[facebook.com/pgh2o](https://www.facebook.com/pgh2o)

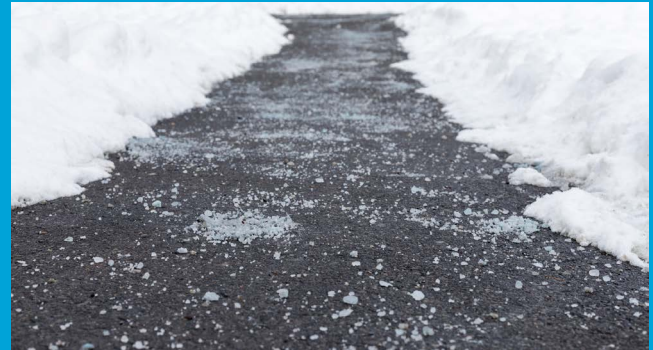
[nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com)



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WATER WISE

## Keep Ice at Bay with Environmentally Friendly Methods



**Find out how to de-ice your property in a way that helps reduce pollution.**

De-icing salts applied to roads or sidewalks lower the freezing point of water on the pavement, which melts or prevents the formation of ice. De-icing salts can improve safety, but they also contain chemicals like chloride that can damage nearby plants, soils, and infrastructure. When these chemicals are carried away by melting ice or snow to our rivers and streams, they can harm the water quality and wildlife. Just one teaspoon of salt can pollute five gallons of water!

**Follow these tips when de-icing to help reduce pollution:**

- Before salting, clear away as much snow and ice as possible with a shovel or broom.
- Apply salt sparingly on icy patches, leaving about three inches between salt grains. Focus on areas with high foot traffic.
- If there is salt left on the pavement after thaws, sweep it up and apply less next time.
- Minimize use of sodium chloride (also known as rock salt), calcium chloride, and potassium chloride. Instead, consider using magnesium chloride products, which release less chloride.
- To help reduce salt use, consider mixing in additives like beet juice or pickle juice.
- To increase traction, sprinkle sand with or without salt. Sweep up the sand later so that it does not clog storm drains or pollute rivers and streams.
- Use less-toxic ice removal methods. Try mixing beet juice with de-icing salt to reduce salt use and lower the freezing point.

Learn more at [Pgh2o.com/reducing-stormwater-pollution](http://Pgh2o.com/reducing-stormwater-pollution).