

CURRENTS

Fulfilling our mission to protect the environment

Long-term stormwater and wet weather planning creates sustainable, more resilient city



The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), has never been in a better position to fulfill its mission: *to support our region by protecting public health and the environment through the delivery of safe and reliable water services.*

In 2019, PWSA added stormwater management as an explicit part of its work. These responsibilities are guided by several environmental and water quality regulatory obligations pertaining to our sewer system and the quality of water in our rivers and streams.

To meet these obligations, PWSA is embarking upon a long-term strategic planning

effort to understand the capacity of our combined sewer system, reduce combined sewer overflows, protect residents from flooding, and improve water quality. Over time, these improvements will meet strict environmental regulations, better prepare our region for the impacts of climate change, and improve the quality of life for Pittsburgh residents.

The first phase of our strategic planning is currently underway. In December 2022, we released the draft [Stormwater Strategic Plan](#) available for public review and comment through June 30th.

It provides a framework for

prioritizing future stormwater investments and identifies six Priority Actions including:

1. Develop a Communications Framework
2. Institute a Joint Task Force on Stormwater
3. Analyze Priority Areas for Investment
4. Define Initial Investment Strategies
5. Establish Guiding Principles for Level of Service & Flooding
6. Leverage Stormwater Fee Impact

PWSA is also initiating a Wet Weather Plan that you will hear more about over the next few years. One of its main goals is to improve water quality by reducing overflows into our waterways. When finished, the Wet Weather Plan will provide an actionable pathway to ensure a more resilient sewer system and water quality improvements that can bring about quality of life improvements, enhanced recreational activities along local waterways, and ecological benefits for fish and wildlife.

Last summer, we conducted a robust, service-area-wide customer satisfaction

Next Board Meeting: May 26

For a complete list of PWSA's board and community meetings, please visit pgh2o.com/events-meetings.

Following COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are held virtually and may be tentative or postponed.

survey to gain a better perspective into what our customers expect from a trusted utility partner like PWSA. Approximately 90% of respondents signaled that it is important to them that PWSA protects the environment. Additionally, respondents were nearly unanimous in their conclusion that PWSA should be communicative and transparent regarding drinking water quality and our role in protecting public health.

Along these lines, community participation and education are integral to our strategic planning efforts. It's essential that customers and community stakeholders provide feedback about the strategic recommendations introduced in the Stormwater Strategic Plan and participate in the community conversations taking place this spring. These sessions will continue in the form of educational workshops to introduce the Wet Weather Plan to our customers.

Please join this conversation! Together, we can create a sustainable, more resilient community. Visit pgh2o.com/stormwater-plans to learn more.

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.

Penn Liberty Plaza 1
1200 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Customer Service*

T 412.255.2423 (Press 5)

info@pgh2o.com

**translation services available*

Emergency Dispatch*

412.255.2423 (Press 5)

Available 24/7

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nextdoor.com



WATER WISE

PWSA Hosts Stormwater Conversations



Attend upcoming community workshops about the Stormwater Strategic Plan.

The Stormwater Strategic Plan is the first phase of a long-term planning effort to address local stormwater challenges. It is available to the public for review and comment through June 30, 2023.

To gather feedback and hear your stormwater experiences, PWSA is hosting a series of six community workshops. Join the conversation and attend the one that's most convenient for you! All workshops will be held from 6:00pm - 8:00pm:

April 13 (West End)

Sheraden Healthy Active Living Center
720 Sherwood St.

April 18 (South)

Phillips Recreation
201 Parkfield St.

April 25 (East End)

Kingsley Association
6435 Frankstown Ave.

May 16 (Northside)

Brighton Heights Healthy Active Living Center
3515 McClure Ave.

May 23 (Hazelwood, Four Mile Run)

Hazelwood Healthy Active Living Center
5344 Second Ave.

June 6 (Central: Hill District, Downtown, Strip District, Oakland)

Elsie H. Hillman Auditorium
1825 Centre Ave.

Learn more at:

Pgh2o.com/stormwater-conversations.