

CURRENTS

City of Pittsburgh, PWSA Form Collaborative Stormwater Joint Task Force



Community members are encouraged to report issues such as impaired storm drains, flooding, illegal dumping into sewers and basement backups. PWSA dispatch is ready to help 24/7.

Though 2023 brought a few dry months, stormwater remains a major issue here in Pittsburgh. Aging infrastructure struggles to manage our region’s wet weather and as a result, flooding, pollution flowing into rivers, and basement backups are issues which still affect us.

To address the issues we face with wet weather, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority’s (PWSA) stormwater team continued to consider ways to meaningfully improve stormwater management

in Pittsburgh under the recommendations of the Stormwater Strategic Plan. To learn more about our Stormwater Strategic Plan, visit: pgh2o.com/stormwater-plans.

After concluding a series of community workshops and the public comment period about the Plan, PWSA kicked off the first meeting with the City of Pittsburgh in October to discuss the goals of a newly formed Joint Task Force on Stormwater, as recommended in the Stormwater Strategic Plan.

The Joint Task Force is a partnership which will focus on keeping PWSA and the City accountable as the priorities identified in PWSA’s Strategic Plan for managing stormwater are refined and implemented. An important part of a successful strategic plan is having robust, community-level data to inform our decisions about stormwater management. Therefore, a key goal of the Task Force is to listen.

Community members can report any stormwater issues that they witness such as a basement backup or flooding 24/7 to PWSA Dispatch by calling (412) 255-2423, Press 1. The City (Department of Mobility and Infrastructure) and PWSA meet monthly to work collaboratively to try to resolve stormwater issues reported to us by residents.

With a responsive Task Force in place, our stormwater group will continue studying opportunities for making our stormwater infrastructure more capable and resilient against future storms.

Next Board Meeting: December 15

For more information and to join a PWSA Board Meeting, please visit pgh2o.com/board

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



Search and Win!

Winning is easy! This month we challenge you to discover the wealth of information on our website. Simply visit pgh2o.com to find the webpage describing the water treatment process and water quality. Then use the QR code below or visit <https://shorturl.at/wHVW9> to send the webpage address, along with your name and address, to receive your gift. It’s that easy! Gift boxes ship at month’s end. Explore, learn, and win!



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, the stormwater credit program, and a searchable map to understand the amount of hard surface on your property.

Stormwater Credit Program: Property owners choosing to manage stormwater on site may reduce their monthly stormwater charge by installing stormwater management systems such as a rain garden or an underground stormwater system on their property. For information about the stormwater credit and to apply visit 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 for the amount of impervious surface and Equivalent Residential Units (ERU's)
- To determine your fee amount, multiply the number of ERU's by the current stormwater rate 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.

Questions: Please call PWSA Customer Service at [412-255-2423 \(Press 5\)](tel:412-255-2423) or email info@pgh2o.com for questions about the stormwater fee or general questions about the credit program. For more information about our plans to manage stormwater, please visit pgh2o.com/stormwater.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Your donation to PWSA's Hardship Grant Program will directly benefit PWSA customers having difficulty paying their bill. Donate 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

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

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

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

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



WATER WISE

Is Your Yard and Home Ready for Winter?



The arrival of cold winter weather can bring all sorts of issues for your yard and our sewer system. Fallen leaves can clog gutters and storm drains then freeze in place, causing flooding when it rains or snows. Water expands when it freezes, which can crack and damage garden hoses or rain barrels that haven't been emptied.

Prepare your yard and home before winter:

- Drain, remove, and store garden hoses. Close the inside valves that control the water supply to the outside hose spigot, then open the outside spigot to allow any remaining water to drain.
- Clean out roof gutters. Remove leaves and other debris so that the gutters can drain properly when ice and snow melts.
- Rake up leaves. Fallen leaves can smother your lawn or wash away into storm drains. Compost leaves at home, or bring them to a Pittsburgh yard waste drop-off center: pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/leaf-waste
- If you have a rain garden, add a layer of mulch and rake any leaves. This will help the garden manage stormwater during winter and ready it for spring. Avoid cutting back plant growth, since it can provide food and cover for winter birds.
- If you have a rain barrel, drain and store it. Clear the barrel filter of debris. If storing outside, cover with a tarp and leave the barrel spigot open so it can drain any water that may enter. If you have a downspout diverter, switch it to bypass the barrel so that water drains through the downspout.