

MS4 DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

July 29, 2023 – August 31, 2023

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

- ❖ MS4 Staff created a pollinator-friendly garden at a grass-filled bump out located in front of the walkway at 651 Market St.
 - Removed turf grass and weeds, dug out deep roots, and prepared soil.
 - Planted new pollinator-friendly native perennial plantings utilized in educational demonstrations, including: Black-Eyed Susans, Butterfly Weed, Meadow Sage, Coreopsis, Coneflowers / Echinacea, New England Asters, and Swamp Milkweed.

Before



During



After



❖ Land Studies Rain Garden Maintenance

- Land Studies hand weeded all rain gardens, performed invasive plant control, removed trash and debris from gardens, shoveled sediment out of traps, and planted and mapped 50+ native plugs in bare spots throughout the rain gardens.
- This year, Land Studies planted a total of 500 additional plantings in our rain gardens. New plantings will help restore biodiversity and increase water filtration and pollutant reduction.



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- ❖ While much of the month was hot and dry, a few storms caused clogged drains.
 - MS4 staff cleared leaves, debris, and trash from storm drains to prevent flooding and reduce pollution



- ❖ Maintenance Staff removed trash, litter, microplastics, cigarette butts, and debris from rain gardens and bottleneck.
- ❖ Maintenance Staff continued street sweeping weekly as scheduled to remove pollution from our streets and storm drains.
- ❖ MS4 Staff and Maintenance Staff watered pollinator pots and newly planted rain gardens consistently throughout the month to ensure health of plantings despite extremely high heat and dry spells.
 - Thank you to Donna Royal and the Penn Cumberland Garden Club for their generous donation of seasonal plants for our pollinator pots!!





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- ❖ Participated in Penn State Master Watershed Steward Conference at Penn State University and surrounding field locations.
 - This invitation-only conference provided the latest information in watershed restoration practices, water quality research, outreach & education, habitat & ecosystem renewal, and more.
 - Met with scientists in classrooms and in the field to see the work Penn State is doing to reduce or offset nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment, restore native plant and animal species, etc.
 - Intensive learning environment on the following topics:
 - Pennsylvania Bee Monitoring & entomological studies
 - Riparian buffer planting & maintenance
 - Stormwater education training
 - Native meadow planting and maintenance – how to go from concept to completion
 - Native vs invasive plant identification and maintenance
 - Climate impacts on stream beds and necessary aquatic insects
 - Weather whiplash – years of drought or unexpectedly low rainfall followed by year(s) of flooding and massive snowfall – be prepared in your community
 - Incorporating water-based natural and sustainable art into your educational outreach activities
 - Predictions of upcoming 2025 Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction changes
 - PA not currently meeting nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment goals
 - Scientists at Penn State have been asked to work on PFAS / PFOS standards and reduction/ elimination methods





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- ❖ West Shore Regional Police Department hosted National Night Out, an annual community-building event. What an incredible turn out! Thank you WSRPD for inviting us to be part of this fun night! Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table to learn about stormwater!
 - Demonstrated the function and purpose of our Rain Gardens
 - Educated visitors about the importance of utilizing pollinator-friendly plants
 - Exhibited native plants with deep roots to improve water quality and reduce erosion and flooding
 - Displayed the extensive benefits of trees and their effectiveness as a stormwater management tool
 - Provided pollution reduction and stormwater educational materials for all and hands-on activities for our youngest residents



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- ❖ Construction project at 9th & Walnut through 9th & Market St is currently underway.
 - Adding storm drains and piping to reduce surface water flowing to 9th St and Market St.
 - This project is designed to improve safety and reduce flooding and erosion.



- ❖ Unnamed Tributary and West Walnut Street Stormwater Improvement Project is currently underway.
 - Stream restoration project is designed to reduce erosion, restore the natural function of the stream, improve the ecosystem, and reduce pollutants flowing downstream.
 - 1st leg of restoration by sewer pump station is complete
 - 2nd leg of restoration beginning on Riverview Rd has begun
 - 3rd leg of restoration will begin in September
 - This project is the final requirement for our DEP Pollutant Reduction Program 2023

