

# STORMWATER

## Southeast PA Municipal and Environmental Professionals Convene for Stormwater Management Workshop

On Friday October 20th, SAN partnered with the Center for Watershed Protection and Upper Merion Township to host a workshop on municipal stormwater management to nearly 80 professionals from southeastern Pennsylvania.

Beth Uhler, the Center for Watershed Protection's Pennsylvania Director kicked off the workshop delving into crucial topics around establishing and managing a Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) Inspection Program. Beth shared practical information about the importance of creating and maintaining a BMP inventory, sample inspection programs and procedures, work order processes and training around municipally-owned BMPs as well as a case study on a municipal outreach program addressing privately-owned BMPs.

Julie Schneider, Watershed Planner, and Paige Buzard, Landscape Designer, both from the Center for Watershed Protection, then navigated through the distinctions between nonstructural BMPs and structural BMPs, identified common inspection and maintenance issues, and explored the differences between routine maintenance and restorative maintenance.



Workshop participants viewed 2 adjacent stormwater inlet filters in Upper Merion Township's parking lot. The **top** was awaiting maintenance whereas the **bottom** had recently undergone routine seasonal maintenance. The comparison highlighted the importance of maintaining these structures in the fall months, to minimize pipe clogging and sedimentation.

Geoff Hickman, Upper Merion Township Director of Public Works, and Beth Uhler spearheaded an on-site mock inspection of detention basin undergoing a maintenance planting and a rain garden in construction. This hands-on session provided invaluable insights into challenges and effective strategies for constructing and maintaining municipal stormwater management features. The participants asked a number of insightful questions and the real-world application of the field component and mock inspection was a clear value-add among participants.



Geoff Hickman shares about invasive removal and replacement planting being completed by Upper Merion EAC and Shade Tree Commission members in collaboration with the Public Works Department.

**“I loved the opportunity to actually get out and see BMP facilities with a trained engineer to see how they'd assess these practices.” - Anonymous Workshop Participant**

The success of this workshop owes much to the collaborative efforts of the planning team. Our sincere appreciation to the William Penn Foundation for their financial support and to Upper Merion Township and the Center for Watershed Protection team for committing their time and expertise and sharing integral roles in orchestrating this event.

As the discussions reverberate and insights gained are put into practice, we look forward to witnessing the positive impact these shared learnings will have on enhancing stormwater management practices across the region.

