

## Watershed-Friendly Urban Application – Small Lot

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### Applicant Information

Applicant's Name \*

Address: \*

Street Address

City

ZIP Code

Pennsylvania

State

Municipality \*

County \*

Adams

Phone Number \*

Email Address \*

Your phone number will only be used if it's necessary to contact you regarding your application.

### Type of Property

What residence best pertains to your living situation? Your response should reflect area other than your residence itself and that you have control over. \*

Apartment building unit

- ☐ With zero outdoor space
- ☐ With 1-50 square feet of outdoor space that you control
- ☐ With over 50 square feet of outdoor space that you control

Does your property have a pond/lake or stream/creek/river on or adjacent to it? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No

### Watersheds

In what MAJOR watershed is your property located? \*

Delaware

(i.e., Erie, Delaware, Genesee, Ohio, Potomac, Susquehanna)

In what LARGE watershed is your property located? \*

(e.g.,Perkiomen Creek, Lehigh River)

If you do not know your LARGE watershed, please visit (<https://mywaterway.epa.gov>) [here](#)

• Under "Let's Get Started," type in the address of the property to be certified and click "Go"

• The next screen will have a map of your watershed on the left and data on the right. At the top of the right-hand section is the property address. Directly underneath the address is the LARGE watershed.



[www.watershedfriendlypa.org](http://www.watershedfriendlypa.org)

Additional funding to update this certification to include the PA Fertilizer Law provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

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## Reduce Stormwater Runoff

**Stormwater runoff is when precipitation from rain and snowmelt flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not percolate into the ground.**

Following major rainfall events, flooding and the health of our waterways have become serious concerns for many homes and communities. When rainwater falls on impervious surfaces (i.e., driveways, sidewalks, roofs, and compacted soil), the water cannot be absorbed by the land where it can be stored and/or released slowly to surface water. Water that is stored in the ground as groundwater flows slowly to surface water bodies, such as streams and rivers, which is beneficial to humans and the environment. Instead, impervious surfaces cause water to flow to storm drains on or near your property and then into the nearest stream, causing the stream to flood. Too much rainfall in a short period of time can cause flash floods which often result in hazardous conditions which may disrupt our daily lives. Flood events can also negatively impact the environment. Fast-moving water can change the landscape by eroding stream banks and degrading nearby ecological habitats. Individuals, families, and communities can make a positive contribution in this category by using best practices to maximize the amount of water absorption and slow the flow of stormwater.

Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by using best practices to maximize the amount of water absorption on their property and slowing the flow of stormwater leaving their property. These may include:

- Decreasing the amount of impervious surface on the property.
- Increasing the amount of vegetated areas with deep-rooted native plants, including container plantings.
- Maintaining on-property and/or street trees.
- Decreasing the amount of mowed lawn that is not required by regulations or regularly used by the applicant.

Approximate amounts of land usage may be determined using Google Earth calculation tools, municipal GIS maps, or other resources.

**Indicate to what extent you use these best practices for reducing stormwater runoff.**

\*Note: If a question is not applicable to your property or you do not have control over the property, simply answer "NA"

## RUN OFF REDUCTION MEASURES:

Property minimizes impervious surfaces (e.g., hardscaping, brick, paved, or concrete surfaces) excluding housing, outbuilding roofs, and zoning-required pavement such as sidewalks.

☐ Completely true ☐ Somewhat true ☐ Somewhat untrue ☐ Not at all true ☐ NA

Permeable sidewalks, gravel pathways, hardy non-invasive vegetation are installed for pathways and gathering places (eg patios) in place of impervious surfaces.

☐ Completely true ☐ Somewhat true ☐ Somewhat untrue ☐ Not at all true ☐ NA

Approximate amount of mowed lawn that is not required for HOA or municipal requirements, frequent recreation, food cultivation, and other frequent-use activities.

☐ 0-15% ☐ 14-30% ☐ 31-50% ☐ 51-75% ☐ 76-100%

Aside from frequently used or required mowed areas, the remaining vegetated areas of property are permeable, no-mow plantings (i.e., meadow, flower beds, container gardens) instead of mowed lawn.

☐ Completely true ☐ Somewhat true ☐ Somewhat untrue ☐ Not at all true ☐ NA

Keep on-property or adjacent storm drain grates clear of debris.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Downspouts/rain chains empty into permeable surfaces (eg native gardens) or stormwater collection device (eg rain barrel or downspout planter boxes).

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Property has a rain garden, vegetated swale, or bioswale (planted with diverse, dense, and native vegetation.)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Water discharge from sump pumps and/or rain barrels is released onto permeable surfaces such as flower beds or lawns (as opposed to driveway/storm drains)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Rain barrels are drained between rain events

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Your property has water on it or adjacent to it:

The water edge is covered by no-mow and forested riparian buffer zone\*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA



Water that runs off your property is part of your watershed. What we do and add to our land can be carried to these local streams with stormwater runoff. When fertilizers, pesticides, and de-icing products are used outdoors (i.e., applied to lawns and yard areas), excess chemicals have the potential to be mobilized by rainfall and become unintentional pollutants in our watersheds. Stormwater runoff may also pick up soil particles, debris, and chemicals from the ground's surface. In some cases, excess nutrients such as nitrates from fertilizers can filter down through the soil to groundwater, thus potentially impacting the quality of the groundwater as well as nearby surface water. Additionally, while water leaving your home goes to a treatment facility, contaminants in wastewater run the risk of overburdening the system. The addition of these chemicals to groundwater and surface water may be potentially harmful to human health and the environment. Therefore it is important to protect these water resources. In this category, applicants indicate what they are doing to reduce water pollution and contamination in their homes and their outdoor spaces.

**Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by using best practices to ensure that water resources are not being potentially impacted. These may include:**

- Minimizing the use of herbicides and pesticides; and if they are used, carefully following the instructions on the label.
- Properly storing and disposing of unused chemicals.
- Managing lawn and turf grass areas responsibly to avoid excessive application of fertilizers and other lawn amendments. Did you know there is a [Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law](#) to help avoid over-application of nutrients?

*\*Note: if a question is not applicable to your property or you do not have control over the property, simply answer "NA"*

Indicate to what extent you practice the following behaviors for reducing water pollution.

Check all that are true:

- ☐ Minimize/eliminate use of salt/ice-melt products. ☐ Salt/ice-melt products are safely stored in waterproof locations.
- ☐ Fertilizer is not used as a snow or ice melt.

Use non-toxic cleaning products in moderate amounts.

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Maintain good housekeeping practices to eliminate potential physical or chemical hazards entering waterways (e.g. properly dispose of cleaning products, cooking oil, medicines, pesticides, old paint, etc).

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Minimize single-use plastics thereby reducing waste through using reusables such as reusable shopping bags, reusable water bottles, containers and related items.

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Recycle materials when systems are in place for their collection.

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Direct appropriate food and kitchen waste to compost service or on-site compost.

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

When present, pick up and properly dispose of, or recycle, any litter on property and adjacent areas including sidewalks and streets.

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Test soil to determine needs before applying any amendments (e.g., fertilizer, lime, etc.).

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Pick up pet waste immediately and dispose of it properly (e.g., collect in a compostable bag and directed to a municipal/commercial waste management).

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Use a commercial car wash.

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Keep property free of hazardous materials (e.g. old cars, old batteries).

- ☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Keep motor oil or antifreeze from spilling onto the ground or into the storm drain.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Compost yard waste or send to a composting service.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Is fertilizer applied to parts or all of the property?

☐ Yes  
☐ If no, please answer the following questions as "NA"

Fertilizer is applied using a properly calibrated device designed for fertilizer.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Fertilizer is only applied during the growing season, preferably in split season application.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the Time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Phosphorus-based fertilizer is only applied to the lawn when repairing or establishing a new lawn, or a phosphorus deficit is indicated by a soil test result within the past three years.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the Time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Fertilizer is stored in a closed, waterproof container that is not subject to leaching or runoff.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the Time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces is swept back to vegetated surfaces.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the Time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Check all that are true: Fertilizer with Nitrogen (N) is applied to your lawn based on...

- ☐ split applications during the growing season.  
☐ soil test recommendations.  
☐ Fertilizer Law application rates of  $\leq 0.9$  lbs of total N per 1000 square feet.  
☐ NA

Keep pets away from bodies of water on or adjacent to your property.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Maintain taller, more dense native grasses and perennial vegetation to discourage goose access to water.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Fertilizers are not applied within 15 feet of the banks of waterways (e.g. streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, etc.), riparian areas, storm drains, or drainage ditches.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Do not use pesticides on, or near, water/riparian area (excluding defined invasive species control programs).

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

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Clean water is essential for every living organism. Whether your water is provided by the local water company or it is pumped from the aquifer under your property, it is not an endless supply. Water shortage concerns are most recognized during drought conditions. Droughts result from the lack of precipitation over extended periods of time. The lack of sufficient rainfall can result in less water reaching the groundwater aquifers, thus lowering the water table and your water supply. Similarly, water levels in surface water bodies such as streams and lakes can also go down, resulting in less habitat for wildlife. During these times, excessive water usage, especially for non-essential use, can further deplete the water resources. Therefore, it is critical to conserve water and allow the natural systems to recharge so that there is always a steady supply. Conserving water should be considered daily, even if there are not drought conditions.

Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by using best practices to conserve water within their household and on their property.

Indicate to what extent you follow these best practices for conserving water.

*\*Note: If a question is not applicable to your property or you do not have control over the property, simply answer "NA"*

#### WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES:

Reduce water use inside the home by turning off water while soaping hands/brushing teeth, limiting shower time, and other methods.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Fix plumbing leaks or drain issues immediately.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

When cooking, peel and clean multiple vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Collect water from everyday use for watering indoor or outdoor plants, cleaning equipment, and other needs.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Allow lawns and trees to be watered only by rain or captured rainwater.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Do not pre-rinse dishes before placing in the dishwasher.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Run the dishwasher only when full.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Limit exposed soil in flower beds, gardens, and container gardens through dense plantings or maintaining 3-4" of mulch.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Water vegetables, gardens, container gardens, or newly planted trees in the cooler part of the day.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Use a broom to clean sidewalks, patios, driveways instead of water from a hose.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Avoid using a sprinkler for watering.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

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As land within a watershed is developed, there becomes less habitat for wildlife, and the balance within ecosystems is disrupted. In an ecosystem, every living organism plays a vital role and interacts with one other as well as with their physical environment. For example, some native birds (i.e., bluebird) eat and feed insects to their young. If a landowner uses non-native plants and insecticides on their property, the likelihood of having a native bird population is lessened. The same is true for many types of wildlife. Some insects (i.e., butterflies) require a specific native host plant to complete their lifecycle. Vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs, grasses) is also essential to provide shelter and food for wildlife. The importance of pollinators such as bees, butterflies, beetles, and bats, is undeniable. Considering that one-third of the food we eat is dependent on pollinators, it is important to provide a suitable habitat and food supply for them.

Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by providing/creating habitat on their property to support and benefit wildlife and pollinators.

**Indicate to what extent you follow these best practices for supporting wildlife and pollinators.**

*\*Note: if a question is not applicable to your property or you do not have control over the property, simply answer "NA"*

#### SUPPORT WILDLIFE AND POLLINATORS:

Vegetation – including trees, shrubs, and lawn – at the property is native.

☐ 70–100% ☐ 50–69% ☐ 25–49% ☐ 0–24%

Check all that are true:

- ☐ Leaves remain undisturbed in at least one area of the property.
- ☐ Pollinator larval host plants are included in gardens and/or property.
- ☐ Garden perennials and grasses remains uncut until late spring.
- ☐ Native plants are blooming on the property or nearby from early spring to late fall.

Check all that are true:

- ☐ Native trees
- ☐ Native shrubs
- ☐ Native grasses
- ☐ Native flowering perennials

Maintain a brush pile or dead wood away from housing to provide shelter for wildlife.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Provide a water source like a bird bath or small fountain if there is no nearby water source.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Do not plant or purposely tend non-native invasive plants. [See DCNR Invasive Species list.](#)

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

Monitor and attempt to control invasive plants using research-based ecologically friendly methods.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Maintain and/or increase shaded areas on bodies of water.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Replace invasive plants from water, streambanks, and in the riparian buffer zone on your property with native plants.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

**You/your family engage in freshwater sports (e.g., boating, fishing, freshwater swimming, tubing, etc.):**

Follow the clean/drain/dry protocol for gear (e.g., boats, trailers, swimming equipment, etc.) for invasive species before and after use (e.g., insects and vegetation).

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never ☐ NA

#### Community-based Actions

Individual actions and decisions can affect ourselves, our neighbors, and our communities. When members of the community take positive actions, the benefits are shared by all and may inspire others to also take action in a groundswell of activity and behaviors that benefit the local watershed and indirectly benefit those downstream. Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by participating in community-based actions to benefit the health of the local community and watershed.

Mark storm drains near your home or participate in community drain marking activity.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

Participate in at least one community tree planting annually.



Participate in at least one community tree planting annually.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Help plan or install a rain garden or native plant garden at a park, library, or other public site at least once a year.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Help with regular maintenance of a native planting, rain garden, or tree planting in the community or nearby public land.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Participate in an organized litter pick-up at least once a year.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Pick up trash in your neighborhood on your own.

☐ Regularly ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

Adopt a nearby storm drain to clean or culvert and unblock the grates, and notify the municipality if a problem is observed.

☐ Always ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Never

How did you hear about the Watershed-Friendly Property program and application? \*

Did you make any changes to your property or behaviors in order to qualify for this certification? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No

If applicable, please attach 1 to 3 photos of the watershed-friendly features on your property. Please limit uploads to files no greater than 500kb. By submitting a photo(s), you grant Nurture Nature Center and the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program permission to use or reproduce the photographs in publications intended for educational use and outreach related to the Watershed-Friendly program and other general programming and outreach (including but not limited to printed publications, web pages and web-based publications, outreach materials and displays).

Photo 1

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File

Accepted file types: jpg, jpeg, png, gif.

Description

Photo 2

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