

BRIAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 1-2004

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS WITHIN THOSE AREAS OF BRIAR CREEK TOWNSHIP LOCATED WITHIN THE SUSQUEHANNA TRIBUTARIES WATERSHED AS DELINEATED PURSUANT TO THE SUSQUEHANNA TRIBUTARIES WATERSHED ACT 167 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, ADOPTED BY COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ON APRIL 17, 2003.

The Board of Supervisors of Briar Creek Township hereby ENACTS and ORDAINS the "BRIAR CREEK TOWNSHIP STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE" as set forth hereafter:

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 101. Statement of Findings

The governing body of the Municipality finds that:

- A. Inadequate management of accelerated stormwater runoff resulting from development throughout a watershed increases flood flows and velocities, contributes to erosion and sedimentation, overtaxes the carrying capacity of existing streams and storm sewers, greatly increases the cost of public facilities to convey and manage stormwater, undermines floodplain management and flood reduction efforts in upstream and downstream communities, reduces groundwater recharge, and threatens public health and safety.
- B. A comprehensive program of stormwater management, including reasonable regulation of development and activities causing accelerated erosion, is fundamental to the public health, safety, welfare, and the protection of the people of the Municipality and all the people of the Commonwealth, their resources, and the environment.

Section 102. Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote health, safety, and welfare within the Susquehanna River Tributaries by minimizing the damages described in Section 101.A of this Ordinance through provisions designed to:

- A. Manage accelerated runoff and erosion and sedimentation problems at their source by regulating activities that cause these problems.
- B. Utilize and preserve the existing natural drainage systems.
- C. Require recharge of groundwater and prevent degradation of groundwater quality.
- D. Maintain existing flows and quality of streams and watercourses in the Municipality and the Commonwealth.
- E. Preserve and restore the flood-carrying capacity of streams.
- F. Provide proper maintenance of all permanent stormwater management facilities that are constructed in the Municipality.
- G. Provide performance standards and design criteria for watershed-wide stormwater management and planning.

Section 103. Statutory Authority

The Municipality is empowered to regulate land use activities that affect runoff by the authority of the Act of July 31, 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247, The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, as amended by Act 170 of December 21, 1988 and Act 131 of December 14, 1992, [and the applicable Municipal Code].

Section 104. Applicability

This Ordinance shall apply to those areas of the Municipality that are located within the Susquehanna Tributaries Watershed, as delineated in Appendix A which is hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall only apply to permanent stormwater management facilities constructed as part of any of the Regulated Activities listed in this Section. Stormwater management and erosion and sedimentation control during construction activities are specifically not regulated by this Ordinance, but shall continue to be regulated under existing laws and ordinances.

This Ordinance contains only the stormwater management performance standards and design criteria that are necessary or desirable from a watershed wide perspective. Local stormwater management design criteria (e.g. inlet spacing, inlet type, collection system design and details, outlet structure design, etc.) shall continue to be regulated by the applicable Municipal Ordinances or at the municipal engineer's discretion.

The following activities are defined as "Regulated Activities" and shall be regulated by this Ordinance:

- A. Land development.
- B. Subdivision.
- C. Construction of new or additional impervious or semi-pervious surfaces (driveways, parking lots, etc.).
- D. Construction of new buildings or additions to existing buildings.
- E. Diversion or piping of any natural or man-made stream channel.
- F. Installation of stormwater management facilities or appurtenances thereto.

Section 105. Repealer

Any ordinance or ordinance provision of the Municipality inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency only.

Section 106. Severability

Should a court of competent jurisdiction declare any section or provision of this Ordinance invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 107. Compatibility with Other Ordinance Requirements

Approvals issued pursuant to this Ordinance do not relieve the Applicant of the responsibility to comply with or to secure required permits or approvals for activities regulated by any other applicable code, rule, statutes, or ordinance.

Section 108. Landowner Responsibility

The granting of an exemption, permit, or approval by the Municipality, does not relieve the applicant from assuring that stormwater runoff from the development site will not cause injury to other persons or property.

ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this chapter, certain terms and words used herein shall be interpreted as follows:

- A. Words used in the present tense include the future tense; the singular number includes the plural, and the plural number includes the singular; words of masculine gender include feminine gender; and words of feminine gender include masculine gender.
- B. The word "includes" or "including" shall not limit the term to the specific example but is intended to extend its meaning to all other instances of like kind and character.
- C. The word "person" includes an individual, firm, association, organization, partnership, trust, company, corporation, or any other similar entity.
- D. The words "shall" and "must" are mandatory; the words "may" and "should" are permissive.
- E. The words "used or occupied" include the words "intended, designed, maintained, or arranged to be used, occupied or maintained".

Accelerated Erosion - The removal of the surface of the land through the combined action of man's activity and the natural processes of a rate greater than would occur because of the natural process alone.

Agricultural Activities - The work of producing crops and raising livestock including tillage, plowing, disking, harrowing, pasturing and installation of conservation measures. Construction of new buildings or impervious area is not considered an agricultural activity.

Alteration - As applied to land, a change in topography as a result of the moving of soil and rock from one location or position to another; also the changing of surface conditions by causing the surface to be more or less impervious; land disturbance.

Applicant - A Landowner or developer who has filed an application for approval to engage in any Regulated Activities as defined in Section 104 of this Ordinance.

BMP (Best Management Practice) - Stormwater structures, facilities and techniques to maintain or improve the water quality of surface runoff.

Channel Erosion - The widening, deepening, and head ward cutting of small channels and waterways, due to erosion caused by moderate to large floods.

Cistern - An underground reservoir or tank for storing rainwater.

Conservation District - The Columbia, Luzerne or Montour County Conservation District.

Culvert - A structure with appurtenant works, which carries a stream under or through an embankment or fill.

Dam - An artificial barrier, together with its appurtenant works, constructed for the purpose of impounding or storing water or another fluid or semi fluid, or a refuse bank, fill or structure for highway, railroad or other purposes which does or may impound water or another fluid or semi fluid.

Design Storm - The magnitude and temporal distribution of precipitation from a storm event measured in probability of occurrence (e.g. a 5-year storm) and duration (e.g. 24-hours), used in the design and evaluation of stormwater management systems.

Designee - The agent of the Municipality involved with the administration, review or enforcement of any provisions of this ordinance by contract or memorandum of understanding.

Detention Basin - An impoundment structure designed to manage stormwater runoff by temporarily storing the runoff and releasing it at a predetermined rate.

Developer - A person, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity, or any responsible person therein or agent thereof, that undertakes any Regulated Activity of this Ordinance.

Development Site - The specific tract of land for which a Regulated Activity is proposed.

Downslope Property Line - That portion of the property line of the lot, tract, or parcels of land being developed located such that all overland or pipe flow from the site would be directed towards it.

Drainage Conveyance Facility - A Stormwater Management Facility designed to transmit stormwater runoff and shall include streams, channels, swales, pipes, conduits, culverts, storm sewers, etc.

Drainage Easement - A right granted by a Landowner to a grantee, allowing the use of private land for stormwater management purposes.

Drainage Permit - A permit issued by the Municipality after the drainage plan has been approved. Said permit is issued prior to or with the final Municipal approval.

Drainage Plan - The documentation of the stormwater management system, if any, to be used for a given development site, the contents of which are established in Section 403.

Earth Disturbance - Any activity including, but not limited to, construction, mining, timber harvesting and grubbing which alters, disturbs, and exposes the existing land surface.

Emergency Spillway - An earthen or structural spillway designed to convey large flood flows safely past earth embankments.

Erosion - The movement of soil particles by the action of water, wind, ice, or other natural forces.

Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Plan - A plan, which is designed to minimize, accelerated erosion and sedimentation pursuant to 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 102.

Existing Conditions - The initial condition of a project site prior to the proposed construction. If the initial condition of the site is undeveloped land, the land use shall be considered as "meadow" unless the natural land cover is proven to generate lower curve numbers or Rational "C" value, such as forested lands.

Flood - A general but temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of streams, rivers, and other waters of this Commonwealth.

Floodplain - Any land area susceptible to inundation by water from any natural source or delineated by applicable Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Insurance Administration Flood Hazard Boundary - Mapped as being a special flood hazard area. Also included are areas that comprise Group 13 Soils, as listed in Appendix A of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Technical Manual for Sewage Enforcement Officers (as amended or replaced from time to time by PADEP).

Floodway - The channel of the watercourse and those portions of the adjoining floodplains that is reasonably required to carry and discharge the 100-year frequency flood. Unless otherwise specified, the boundary of the floodway is as indicated on maps and flood insurance studies provided by FEMA. In an area where no FEMA maps or studies have defined the boundary of the 100-year frequency floodway, it is assumed - absent evidence to the contrary - that the floodway extends from the stream to 50 feet from the top of the bank of the stream.

Forest Management/Timber Operations - Planning and activities necessary for the management of forestland. These include timber inventory and preparation of forest management plans, silvicultural treatment, cutting budgets, logging road design and construction, timber harvesting, site preparation and reforestation.

Freeboard - A vertical distance between the elevation of the design high water and the top of a dam, levee, tank, basin, or diversion ridge. The space is required as a safety margin in a pond or basin.

Grade - A slope, usually of a road, channel or natural ground specified in percent and shown on plans as specified herein. (To) Grade - to finish the surface of a roadbed, top of embankment or bottom of excavation.

Grassed Waterway - A natural or constructed waterway, usually broad and shallow, covered with erosion-resistant grasses, used to conduct surface water from cropland.

Groundwater Recharge - Replenishment of existing natural underground water supplies.

Impervious Surface - A surface that prevents the percolation of water into the ground.

Impoundment - A retention or detention basin designed to retain stormwater runoff and release it at a controlled rate.

Infiltration Structures - A structure designed to direct runoff into the ground (e.g. french drains, seepage pits, seepage trench).

Inlet - A surface connection to a closed drain. A structure at the diversion end of a conduit. The upstream end of any structure through which water may flow.

Land Development - (i) the improvement of one lot or two or more contiguous lots, tracts, or parcels of land for any purpose involving (a) a group of two or more buildings, or (b) the division or allocation of land or space between or among two or more existing or prospective occupants by means of, or for the purpose of streets, common areas, leaseholds, condominiums, building groups, or other features; (ii) any subdivision of land; (iii) development in accordance with Section 503(1.1) of the PA Municipalities Planning Code.

Land/Earth Disturbance - Any activity involving removing, grading, tilling, digging, or filling of ground or stripping of vegetation or any other activity that causes an alteration to the natural condition of the land.

Main Stem (Main Channel) - Any stream segment or other runoff conveyance facility used as a reach in the individual Susquehanna Tributaries Watersheds.

Manning Equation in (Manning formula) - A method for calculation of velocity of flow (e.g. feet per second) and flow rate (e.g. cubic feet per second) in open channels based upon channel shape, roughness, depth of flow and slope. "Open channels" may include closed conduits so long as the flow is not under pressure.

Municipality - Briar Creek Township

Non-point Source Pollution - Pollution that enters a water body from diffuse origins in the watershed and does not result from discernible, confined, or discrete conveyances or origin.

NRCS - Natural Resource Conservation Service (previously SCS).

Open Channel - A drainage element in which stormwater flows with an open surface. Open channels include, but shall not be limited to, natural and man-made drainage ways, grass waterways, lined waterways, swales, streams, ditches, canals, and pipes flowing partly full (for computational purposes).

Outfall - Point where water flows from a conduit, stream, or drain.

Outlet - Points of water disposal from a stream, river, lake, tidewater or artificial drain.

Parking Lot Storage - The use of impervious parking areas for temporary impoundment of stormwater with controlled release rates during rainstorms.

Peak Discharge - The maximum rate of stormwater runoff from a specific storm event.

Penn State Runoff Model - A computer-based hydrologic modeling technique.

Pipe - A culvert, closed conduit, or similar structure (including appurtenances) that conveys stormwater.

Planning Commission - The Planning Commission of Briar Creek Township.

PMF - Probable Maximum Flood - The flood that may be expected from the most severe combination of critical meteorological and hydrologic conditions that is reasonably possible in any area. The PMF is derived from the probable maximum precipitation (PMP) as determined on the basis of data obtained from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

POI – Point of Interest – Downstream point for tributary or tributaries in which increased runoff must be analyzed for its potential impact.

Principal Spillway – A pipe, weir or other appurtenant works designed to control the required detention storm.

Rational Formula - A rainfall-runoff relation used to estimate peak flow.

Regional Stormwater Detention/Retention Facility – A stormwater detention or retention facility located within the same subwatershed as the land development but not within the development area, which will provide the same stormwater controls required by the ordinance. A regional facility may be designed to provide controls from multiple but separate sites within the designated subwatershed.

Regulated Activities - Actions or proposed actions that have an impact on stormwater runoff and that are specified in Section 104 of this Ordinance.

Retention Basin - An impoundment in which stormwater is stored and not released during the storm event. Stored water may be released from the basin at some time after the end of the storm.

Return Period - The average interval, in years, within which a storm event of a given magnitude can be expected to recur. For example, the 25-year return period rainfall would be expected to recur on the average once every twenty-five years.

Riser - A vertical pipe extending from the bottom of a pond that is used to control the discharge rate from the pond for a specified design storm.

Rooftop Detention - Temporary ponding and gradual release of stormwater falling directly onto flat roof surfaces by incorporating controlled-flow roof drains into building designs.

Runoff - Any part of precipitation that flows over the land surface.

Sediment Basin - A barrier, dam, retention or detention basin designed to retain rock, sand, gravel, silt, or other material transported by water.

Sediment Pollution - The placement, discharge or introduction of sediment into the waters of the Commonwealth.

Sedimentation - The process by which mineral or organic matter is accumulated or deposited by the movement of water.

Seepage Pit/Seepage Trench - An area of excavated earth filled with loose stone or similar coarse material, into which surface water is directed for infiltration into the ground.

Sheet Flow - Runoff that flows over the ground surface as a thin, even layer, not concentrated rill, gully or in a channel.

Soil-Cover Complex Method - A method of runoff computation developed by the NRCS that is based on relating soil type and land use/cover to a runoff parameter called Curve Number (CN).

Soil Group, Hydrologic - A classification of soils by the Soil Conservation Service into four runoff categories. The groups range from A soils, which are very permeable and produce little runoff, to D soils, which are not very permeable and produce much more runoff.

Spillway - A device or devices that safely convey the design storms of a dam without endangering its safety or integrity.

Storage Indication Method - A reservoir routing procedure based on solution of the continuity equation (inflow minus outflow equals the change in storage) with outflow defined as a function of storage volume and depth.

Storm Frequency - The number of times that a given storm "event" occurs or is exceeded on the average in a stated period of years. See "Return Period".

Storm Sewer - A system of pipes and/or open channels that convey intercepted runoff and stormwater from other sources, but excludes domestic sewage and industrial wastes.

Stormwater - Runoff generated by precipitation or snowmelt.

Stormwater Management Facility - Any structure, natural or man-made, that, due to its condition, design, or construction, conveys, stores, or otherwise affects stormwater runoff. Typical stormwater management facilities include, but are not limited to, detention and retention basins, open channels, storm sewers, pipes, and infiltration structures. The term does not include replacement wetlands or major dams and reservoirs constructed for water supply, recreation, river basin flood control or other regional or basin-wide purposes.

Stormwater Management Site Plan - The plan prepared by the Developer or his representative indicating how stormwater runoff will be managed at the particular site of interest within Susquehanna Tributaries Watershed adopted by Columbia County as required by the Act of October 4, 1978, P.L. 864 (Act 167) as known as the Susquehanna River Tributaries Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.

Stream Enclosure - A bridge, culvert or other structure in excess of 100 feet in length upstream to downstream which encloses a regulated water of this Commonwealth.

Subdivision - The division or re-division of a lot, tract, or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels or other divisions of land including changes in existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, transfer of ownership, or building or lot development: Provided, however, that the subdivision by lease of land for agricultural purposes into parcels of more than ten acres, not involving any new street or easement of access or any residential dwellings, shall be exempt.

Swale - A low-lying stretch of land, which gathers or carries surface water runoff.

Timber Operations - See Forest Management.

Time of Concentration (Tc) - The time for surface runoff to travel from the hydraulically most distant point of the watershed to a point of interest within the watershed. This time is the combined total of overland flow time and flow time in pipes or channels, if any.

Watercourse - A stream of water; river; brook; creek; or a channel or ditch for water, whether natural or manmade.

Waters of the Commonwealth - Any and all rivers, streams, creeks, rivulets, ditches, watercourses, storm sewers, lakes, dammed water, wetlands, ponds, springs, and all other bodies or channels of conveyance of surface and underground water, or parts thereof, whether natural or artificial, within or on the boundaries of this Commonwealth.

Wetland - Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bogs, fens, and similar areas.