



MUNICIPALITY of MURRYSVILLE

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Municipality of Murrysville

Westmoreland County

Growing Greener Grant SW- 20286

Municipal Watershed Management System

October, 2006

In August of 2002, the Municipality of Murrysville, a community of 37 square miles and approximately 20,000 residents, located 20 miles east of Pittsburgh, was awarded a Growing Greener Watershed Grant. The grant funded the study and compilation of a municipal Watershed Management System.

Murrysville is typical of many Pennsylvania municipalities that lie in the path of development. Approximately 100 new housing units are constructed each year and retail development has recently increased. While significant portions of developable land are available, much land within the Municipality is constrained by steep slopes and slippery soils. These constraints, however, are valued by municipal residents as scenic assets that maintain the community's character.

While general community character and traffic impacts are often the most immediate or obvious effects of development, watershed impacts are also an increasing concern. Maintenance of additional streets, and standards applied to developers and municipal activities alike relate to storm water management of management of the watershed in general.

As a result of ongoing efforts in implementing its comprehensive plan, cooperation with the neighboring Borough of Export, and the requirement and desire to comply with the Six Minimum Control Measures, Murrysville contracted with Michael Baker Corporation, Duquesne University's Center for Environmental Research, Pashek and Associates, and obtained the support of the Local Government Academy, the Turtle Creek Watershed Association, and the Westmoreland County Conservation District in developing a Watershed Management System.

The project involved interviews with municipal staff, a review of Murrysville's ordinances as they represent ordinance typical of many Pennsylvania municipalities, and research of Best Management Practices from several resources as best applied to local municipal practices in both municipal operations and as applied private development.

Through the efforts of the partners cited above, the project yielded the following products:

1. **“Best Management Practices for Municipal Operations and Ordinances to Reduce Storm Water Impacts.”** Utilizing municipal ordinances and interviews as a base, this document summarizes and critiques municipal activities and ordinances and their impact, positive and negative, on the watershed. Recommendations are provided in the form of Best Management Practices or BMP’s for both municipal operations and ordinance standards and revisions.
2. **“Review of Municipal Best Management Practices.”** This document summarizes a menu of BMP’s from multiple sources that apply to municipal operations, ordinances, and activities.
3. **“Recommended Ordinance Changes and Developer’s Explanations.”** This document acts as a provider of model ordinance language as well as explanations for municipal staff and developers as to key standards. The product acts as a design manual for both storm water and grading ordinances.
4. **“Sample Ordinances and Site Plans.”** Samples and excerpts of municipal ordinances included, both adopted and in draft form, help to illustrate simple applications of the principals outlined in the preceding documents. Also, a cooperative agreement and developer’s agreement included aid in the consideration of adjoining municipalities in the same watershed and as a tool for the proper management of private construction projects in accordance with the model ordinances.
5. **Presentations prepared by Baker and Duquesne CERE** are included as given at workshops sponsored by the Local Government Academy and held in June of 2006. The presentations respectively involve BMP’s for private development and BMP’s for municipal operations, namely public works crews.

The above products are intended to provide model language, practices, and tools in the form of Best Management Practices that may be adopted by Pennsylvania municipalities. Using Murrysville’s experience as common to municipalities throughout the State, we hope that the products created will aid the Municipality in the continuing implementation of BMP’s and cooperation with neighboring municipalities, and aid other municipalities attempting to address many of the same issues as they ultimately impact local watersheds.

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