



 Sharpsburg, PA

RESEARCH-DRIVEN RFP OPENS DOOR TO COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER SOLUTIONS



OUR APPROACH

WaterNow partnered with the Borough of Sharpsburg to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP), and a budget for the RFP, to create a comprehensive stormwater management plan that complements Sharpsburg's existing community plans related to watersheds, climate, and other community elements like transportation and capital improvement plans. The goal of this project was to prepare Sharpsburg's infrastructure against localized flooding from storms and to mitigate water quality impacts on local watersheds while ensuring that the community remains resilient and knowledgeable about stormwater risks.

IMPACT

Sharpsburg released the completed RFP on September 3, 2024, and proposals were due by October 15, 2024. Sharpsburg used the RFP to select a firm and is now finalizing the stormwater plan, expected to be completed by the end of 2025 or early January 2026.

KEY DRIVERS

The Borough of Sharpsburg sits at the bottom of multiple watersheds, making it one of the most flood-exposed municipalities in Allegheny County. Through the anticipated stormwater management plan resulting from the RFP, Sharpsburg hopes to identify the most impactful areas and corresponding solutions, like green stormwater infrastructure, to reduce localized flooding resulting from storm events. The Borough also hopes to reduce combined sewer flows and combined sewer overflows, which degrade water quality in local waterways and diminish the surrounding environmental quality for residents.



HOW IT WORKS

To create the RFP, WaterNow worked with Sharpsburg to research exemplary municipal stormwater management plans that would inform their own goals. WaterNow analyzed a total of eight other communities with similar sizes and economic conditions that had created their own stormwater management plans. In particular, WaterNow focused on best practices and best-in-class plans, especially in the areas of green stormwater infrastructure, community involvement, local water quality monitoring, and collaboration among multiple governments and agencies. WaterNow also hosted a forum to gather input from local leaders as part of the RFP process.





**WORKING WITH WATERNOW ALLIANCE WAS A HUGE BENEFIT
... WE ARE A SMALL COMMUNITY ... WORKING TO ADVANCE
MANY GOALS ON MULTIPLE FRONTS AND DO NOT HAVE STAFF
CAPACITY TO RESEARCH HOW TO WRITE A RFP FOR A
COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

– Christine DeRunk, Borough Manager, Borough of
Sharpsburg

THE PATH FORWARD

In this project, WaterNow laid the groundwork for a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan, empowering the community to leverage limited tax dollars and use grant funding to make the biggest impacts on protecting the health and safety of residents, properties, and public assets. Through the RFP, Sharpsburg was able to select a firm to create an innovative comprehensive stormwater management plan that centers its community's interests while guiding its stormwater, parks, development, and capital improvement efforts for the next twenty-five years.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Partnerships between municipalities, agencies such as PennDOT, and non-profit partners, in collaboration with a regional sewer or water authority, can lower costs and create new avenues for funding.
- To reduce the administrative overhead of creating a collaborative community engagement process during the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan, municipalities can partner with a local non-governmental organization experienced in community engagement.

SOURCES

Borough of Sharpsburg, Questions and Answers for Sharpsburg Borough Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan Pre-Proposal Meeting and Meeting Notes (2024), <https://sharpsburgborough.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Q-and-A-Pre-Proposal-Meeting-2024.09.20.docx>.

Evolve Environment Architecture, Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan (2019), <https://sharpsburgborough.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Sharpsburg-Community-Vision-Plan.pdf>.

Michael DiVittorio, Sharpsburg Council Appoints Familiar VP, TribLive (Aug. 28, 2024), <https://community.triblive.com/c/fox-chapel-herald/news/71eabab4f1b6447765ec09143da523dc>.

WaterNow Alliance, Review of Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plans (2025), https://waternow.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Sharpsburg-Phase-2-Memo-Draft-Final_E.pdf.

WaterNow Alliance, Sharpsburg, PA, Supporting the Development of a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan, <https://waternow.org/project/sharpsburg-pa/>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

BOROUGH OF SHARPSBURG PLANNING PAGE

Sharpsburg's planning webpage, featuring updates about the comprehensive stormwater management plans and other plans

RELATED PROJECTS



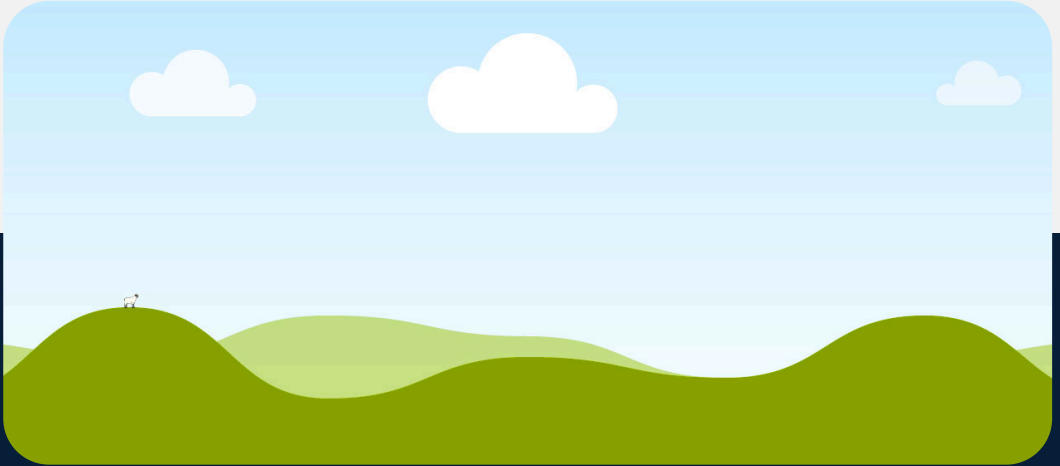
SAW MILL RUN WATERSHED, PA

Cooperative Implementation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for Saw Mill Run



PITTSBURGH, PA

Rain Reclaim: Vacant Lots to Green Infrastructure



LYONS, CO

(to be filled upon completion)

CONTACT

 info@waternow.org

 waternow.org