

Authority Times

News and Information for Customers
of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority

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Authority to Save \$30K

The Borough of Conshohocken Authority (BCA) is committed to delivering high-quality wastewater services while continuously seeking opportunities to operate more efficiently and responsibly. As part of this ongoing effort, the Authority will transition to a new laboratory services provider beginning January 2026—a decision that is projected to save ratepayers approximately \$30,000 in the coming year.

This change follows a comprehensive review of laboratory proposals, pricing structures, and service capabilities. Laboratory testing is a critical component of BCA's operations, ensuring compliance with state and federal environmental regulations and maintaining the safety and reliability of the wastewater treatment process. Because these services must be performed routinely and at a high degree of accuracy, the associated costs can be significant.

After evaluating multiple qualified laboratories, the Authority selected a new provider that offers the same level of certified testing at a substantially lower cost. The projected \$30,000 savings reflects reductions in testing fees, improved pricing for recurring analyses, and more efficient sample handling procedures.

Importantly, the Authority will continue to meet or exceed all regulatory testing requirements. The transition will be seamless for operations and will not impact the quality of wastewater treatment or environmental protection efforts.

This cost-saving change aligns with the Authority's long-term strategy of managing expenses



es without compromising service quality. The savings realized in 2026 will support ongoing capital improvements, system maintenance, and future infrastructure needs—helping to protect both the environment and the financial interests of Borough residents.

By proactively evaluating service contracts and seeking more efficient solutions, the Borough of Conshohocken Authority remains committed to responsible stewardship of public resources and the continued improvement of its operations.

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Secretary

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MEETINGS

January 28
February 25
March 25
April 22
May 27
June 24

**Meetings are held in
the Borough Hall:
400 Fayette Street
Conshohocken**

Meeting time 6:30 pm

BCA Participates in DEP Wastewater Surveillance Program

The Montgomery County Department of Water Quality Management has invited the Borough of Conshohocken Authority to participate in the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS), a program developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The NWSS provides critical public health infrastructure by monitoring wastewater for indicators of infectious diseases. This data helps public health officials track community-level disease trends and make informed decisions, such as issuing prevention guidance or expanding access to test-

ing and vaccination.

Through this program, the CDC monitors pathogens including COVID-19, Influenza A, Avian Influenza A (H5), RSV, and Monkeypox. The results contribute to statewide assessments that categorize infection levels from "no data" to "very high," enabling local professionals to identify emerging trends and alert residents to increased risks.

Participation in the program is straightforward.

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BCA Participates in DEP Program

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The CDC provides sample containers, which we fill using influent wastewater samples that we already collect as part of our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. These samples are then shipped to the CDC's laboratory in Sacramento, California for analysis. Results are shared with the Authority and agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency,

and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

The BCA has committed to participating in this program through September 2028. We are proud to contribute to this vital national effort, which supports public health and environmental protection. Currently, fewer than 1,400 sampling sites exist nationwide. There is no cost to the Authority for participating in this initiative.

Funding the Infrastructure That Protects Conshohocken

Conshohocken's stormwater system may be out of sight, but it plays a vital role in protecting our community every day. This underground network of pipes, inlets, and culverts helps prevent flooding, protects roadways and property, and keeps pollution out of the Schuylkill River.

Like many communities across Pennsylvania, Conshohocken is facing rising infrastructure and regulatory costs. Unfortunately, the current storm sewer fee no longer generates enough funding to keep pace with today's needs.

Planned Storm Sewer Fee Adjustments

Following a rate study completed by an independent third-party consultant, the Authority board approved a gradual increase spread over three years to minimize impact on residents:

- 2026: \$12.25 per month
- 2027: \$14.50 per month
- 2028: \$17 per month

Aging Infrastructure Needs Attention

Much of Conshohocken's stormwater system was built decades ago and is now reaching—or exceeding—its expected lifespan. Recent inspections have identified increasing concerns, including:

- Failing or collapsed storm pipes
- Sinkholes caused by deteriorating infrastructure
- Erosion at stream outfalls
- Blocked or damaged inlets that contribute to street flooding

Addressing these issues proactively helps avoid roadway damage, property flooding, and costly emergency repairs.

Meeting State and Federal Requirements

The Borough is required to comply with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and EPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements. These mandates are necessary to protect water quality but are

largely unfunded, meaning local communities must cover the costs. Failure to comply can result in significant fines and enforcement actions.

Why Stable Funding Matters

A properly funded stormwater program allows Conshohocken to:

- Plan and prioritize projects responsibly
- Leverage grants that require local matching funds
- Address problems before they become emergencies
- Reduce long-term costs through preventive maintenance

Emergency repairs are always more expensive than planned improvements.

The Bottom Line

Stormwater challenges are increasing, not diminishing. The current storm sewer fee does not generate enough revenue to maintain aging infrastructure, meet regulatory requirements, or protect homes and businesses from flooding.

Adjusting the storm sewer fee is an investment in:

- Public safety
- Reliable infrastructure
- Environmental protection
- Long-term fiscal responsibility

Our stormwater system protects the community every day. Responsible, sustainable funding today helps ensure Conshohocken is prepared for tomorrow.

Stormwater Fee Update: Questions & Answers

Why is this needed?

Conshohocken's stormwater system is aging, and the cost to maintain and repair it has increased significantly. Many pipes, inlets, and outfalls were built decades ago and now require replacement or rehabilitation. In addition, the Authority must meet state and federal stormwater regulations that are largely unfunded.

What happens if the system isn't prop-

erly funded?

Without adequate funding, infrastructure failures become more frequent. This can lead to street flooding, sinkholes, roadway damage, and costly emergency repair expenses that are far higher than planned maintenance.

One recent example involves a stormwater pipe currently being replaced in town. During routine inspections, a deteriorated metal drainpipe with a partial collapse was identified before it failed completely. Because the issue was addressed proactively, the project could be planned over several weeks and competitively bid. If the pipe had instead collapsed and caused a sinkhole, the repair would have become an emergency requiring immediate response—and the cost could have easily doubled.

How does this affect me?

The storm sewer fee helps fund the system that protects homes, businesses, roads, and waterways from flooding and pollution. The approved increase is being phased in over three years to reduce the impact while ensuring the system remains reliable.

Is this money restricted to stormwater projects?

Yes. Storm sewer fees are dedicated funds and can only be used for stormwater system maintenance, repairs, upgrades, and regulatory compliance.

Does this help the environment?

Yes. A properly maintained stormwater system reduces pollution entering the Schuylkill River, helps control erosion, and ensures compliance with environmental regulations designed to protect local waterways.

Can the Borough get grants instead?

Grants are actively pursued when available, but many require local matching funds. A stable stormwater fee allows the Borough to qualify for and leverage these funding opportunities.