

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK  
MS 4 TMDL STRATEGY PLAN  
FOR  
SAW MILL RUN WATERSHED

Introduction

The Municipality of Bethel Park lies at the headwaters of the Saw Mill Run (SMR) watershed. There is only one small 600 foot long stream which is the headwaters of Saw Mill Run located the Bethel Park. This portion of the Bethel Park was developed in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's and the lots average approximately one quarter to one third an acre in size with one Municipal Park located at the end of Sante Fe Drive.

In 2008, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved a Total Maximum Dailey Load (TMDL) Plan for the Saw Mill Run Watershed. The TMDL's official names are "TMDL in Sawmill Run Watershed" "AMD and Sediment TMDL for the Saw Mill Run Watershed". The allocated pollutant loading for the Municipality of Bethel Park is 10.5 lbs/yr (95% reduction) for phosphorus and 32.6 lbs/yr (72.6% reduction). The Municipality is at the top reaches of the watershed and is approximately 95% developed in residential and commercial facilities. The TMDL report indicates that the closest data collection point along Saw Mill Run was approximately 1.5 miles from the Municipal boundary.

TMDL Strategies and Best Management Practices

Bethel Park is proposing the following strategies and best management practices (BMPs) to meet the required TMDL limits as set forth in the approved DEP TMDL Plan:

Short Term Goals (Year 1 to Year 5):

Best Management Practice No. 1: The Municipality shall purchase a street sweeper in the next year to remove the sediment from the streets. The streets within the SMR watershed will be swept on a monthly schedule. The amount of sediment removed will be measured by utilizing a dumpster to determine the pounds of removal during each day of work.

Best Management Practice No. 2: The Municipality shall revise their current storm water management ordinance to include volume and rate control requirements by the end of Year 2 of the plan. The volume control will include infiltration and green infrastructure options to capture the first one inch of rainfall.

Best Management Practice No. 3: The Municipality shall implement a TMDL educational program to the residents. The program shall include preparing educational material regarding the use of rain gardens, disconnection of roof drains into rain barrels, landscaped areas or infiltration systems, restoring stream banks and other TMDL sediment and phosphorus reduction procedures. These articles or pamphlets shall be distributed on an annual basis.

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Bethel Park will evaluate the watershed in cooperation with the integrated watershed study that the Saw Mill Run Watershed Group is preparing. The Saw Mill Run Watershed Group shall be implementing stream sampling at the Castle Shannon Borough border. The results will give Bethel Park a baseline and determine how many BMPs are necessary to comply with TMDL requirements. Bethel Park will complete an evaluation of the SMR watershed within its border. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to preparing a survey to distribute to residents to determine possible locations for installation of BMPs, reviewing the existing storm sewer structures for possible retrofits, installing sump inlets in locations that will remove the most sediment and/or stream bank restoration.

Mid Term Goals (Year 6 to Year 10)

Once the evaluation has been completed, Bethel Park in cooperation with the Saw Mill Run Watershed Group will implement a long term plan for implementation of any proposed structural BMPs chosen to be installed in Bethel Park that are viable options and will reduce sediment and improve nutrient loadings in Saw Mill Run. The plan shall have a schedule associated with each BMP to be installed or existing storm sewer structure to be retrofitted. The plan will include cost associated with each BMP and the funding option. Funding options shall include Municipal funds and matching funds associated with grants received through the Saw Mill Run Watershed Association.

Long Term Goals (Year 11 to Year 30)

Bethel Park shall install the BMPs that will reduce the sediment and nutrient loadings to come in compliance with the TMDL requirements as per the implementation schedule provided at the end of Year 10. As each BMP is installed in years 11 through 30, Bethel Park shall monitor the effect each BMP has on the watershed by sampling the stream at the Castle Shannon Borough border.