

EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

Report

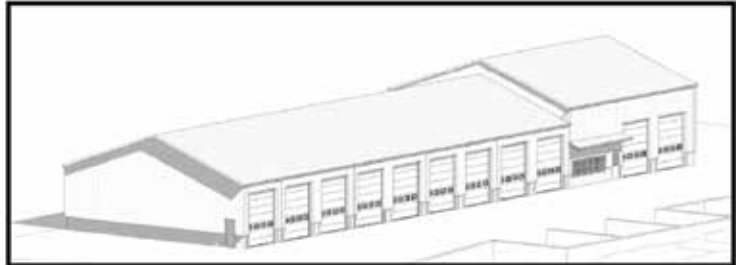
Spring/Summer 2024



Public Works Building Replacement

The current Public Works pole barn, constructed in 1983, is 2,300 square feet (80 feet by 30 feet). Because the building is at the end of its lifespan and undersized for efficient operations, the Board of Supervisors in 2021 authorized staff to begin the process of looking into viable locations to replace the building, followed by the design stage in 2022.

The first design to enclose all of the fleet and equipment totaled 15,090 square feet at an estimated cost of \$3,499,823. The building was reevaluated and reduced to 9,320 square feet for an estimated \$2,161,588. Final building design and site work are underway.



Meet the Public Works Department on pages 3

Zoning Ordinance Update

In March 2024, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing and approved Ordinance #303 adopting a Zoning Ordinance amendment as posted on the website. Highlights include:

ARTICLE I – revision of existing definitions for “Dwelling Unit,” “Family,” “Lot Area,” “Small Warehouse Logistics Use,” and “Large Warehouse Logistics Use;” the creation of new definitions related to “Decks” and “Single Housekeeping Unit.”

ARTICLE II – creation of new uses and attendant regulations for commercial kennels, accessory farm businesses, warehouse/logistics, medical marijuana dispensaries and processing facilities, short-term residential rentals, and trucking terminals; the amendment of

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continued from cover *Zoning Ordinance Update*

existing uses and use regulations, including site capacity and site requirements for the B2-Detached Dwelling Cluster Subdivision and the B3-Performance Standard Development uses. The B2-Detached Dwelling Cluster Subdivision is amended to require the following minimum site areas: Resource Protection, 20 acres; Rural Residential, 20 acres; Suburban, 10 acres; R-1 Residential, 10 acres; and Village Residential, 5 acres. The B3 Performance Standard Development site area requirements are amended to provide the following minimum site areas: Suburban, 25 acres; R-1 Residential, 25 acres; and Village Residential, 10 acres.

ARTICLE III – Revision of the Table of Use Regulations to provide for new uses and to revise the districts and manner in which other uses are permitted.

ARTICLE IV – Revision of the standards governing nonconforming uses and abandonment; revision of administrative provisions of the Zoning Ordinance related to zoning permit review procedures and mandatory submissions with applications for zoning permits and for conditional use applications.

ARTICLE V – Replacement of existing lighting and buffer requirements in their entirety; relocation of nuisance standards from the zoning ordinance to the ordinance of general powers.

ARTICLE VI – Creation of a nuisance standard for invasive plant species; creation of enforcement procedures for public nuisances.

ARTICLE VII – Modifying the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to require street trees be placed on the residential side of the sidewalk.

ARTICLES VIII THROUGH X – Providing for repealer of inconsistent ordinances, severability of unlawful or invalid provisions, and an effective date of five days after enactment.



Meet the Public Works Department

The Public Works Department consists of from left, Jeff Scholl, Director; Paul Behr, Foreman/Mechanic; Latrell Belfield; Kirby Richards. Responsibilities are diverse and complex, covering all four seasons and emergency calls. Responsibilities include maintaining Township roadways, parks, street storm drains and inlets, sewer system including a treatment plant and pump station, mowing, tree trimming, spring yard waste collection, fall leaf collection, maintenance of all the equipment used to do the various jobs and maintenance of all buildings.

Pool Memberships Available

East Rockhill Township residents are fortunate to have two excellent municipal pool complexes nearby to provide family entertainment during the summer. Here is some important information:

The Menlo Aquatics Center is located at 425 Arthur Avenue (next to the Samuel Pierce Library) in Perkasio. MAC is more than most expect. Boasting three pools, the complex features a whirlpool, lazy river, activity pool for the kids, baby pool with a frog slide and whale spout, a huge drop slide, and a twisting slide. Lap lanes allow serious swimmers to practice their skills. All pools are handicap accessible. Registration for the 2024 season can be completed at www.PerkasioRec.com.

Holiday House Pool (801 Washington Avenue in Sellersville) features good old-fashioned, family-friendly fun throughout the season. In addition to a beautiful pool, Holiday House provides space for bocce, ping pong, and cornhole. Membership applications are available at <https://sellersvilleboro.org/house-pool.html> or West Rockhill Township Building.



Inflow & Infiltration

What is Inflow & Infiltration??

Excess water that flows into sewer pipes from groundwater and stormwater is called inflow and infiltration, or I & I. Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into sewer pipes through holes, cracks, joint failures, and faulty connections. Inflow happens when stormwater rapidly flows into sewers via roof drain downspouts, foundation drains, storm drain cross-connections, and through holes in manhole covers. Most I & I is caused by aging infrastructure that needs maintenance or replacement.

Why is I & I a Problem?

Extra water in the sewer system is a problem because it takes up capacity in the sewer pipes and ends up at the wastewater treatment plant, where it must be treated like sewage, resulting in higher treatment costs (increased sewer fees for property owners).

I & I is a problem because it requires new and larger wastewater facilities to convey and treat larger volumes on flow, resulting in higher capital expenditures.

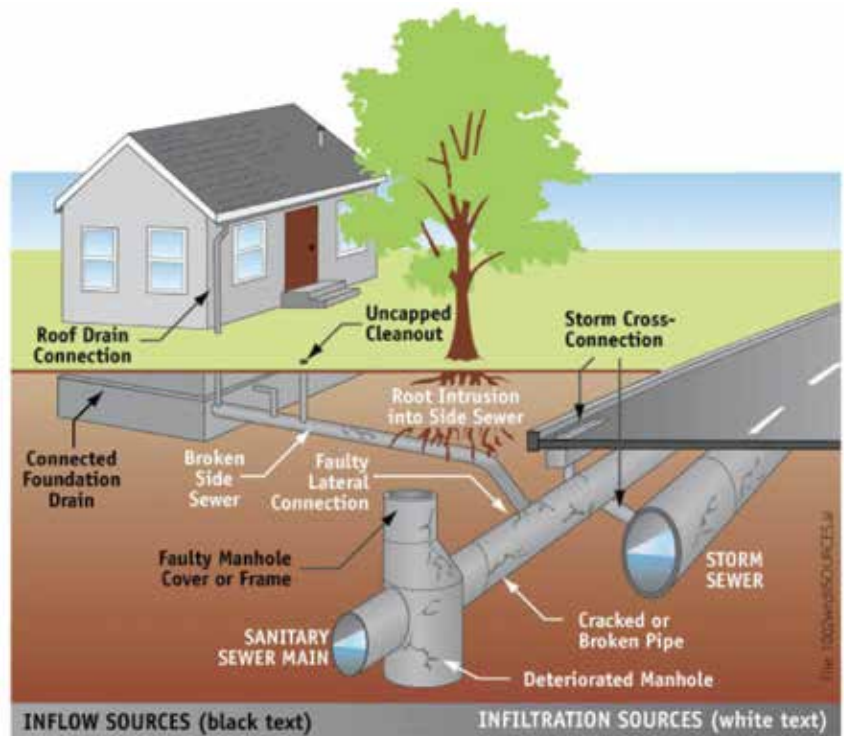
I & I flows contribute to sewer system overflows into local homes and the region's waterways, negatively impacting public health and the environment.

How Can We Reduce I & I??

If you own a property in the Township, you are responsible for maintaining the sewer lateral (pipe) that connects your house to the sanitary sewer line. You can help reduce I & I in a number of ways to help boost our capacity to treat wastewater during the wet season:

- Avoid planting trees and shrubs over sewer laterals, as roots can damage sewer pipes;
- Direct downspouts onto lawn and garden beds;
- Build a rain garden on your property;
- Hook up a rain barrel to your downspouts to collect the extra water runoff; and,
- Be sure to fix or replace any known broken, leaky, or problem sections of your property's sewer lateral.

(Source: kingcounty.gov)



Rock Hill Quarry

A PA DEP cessation order issued in December 2018 after naturally occurring asbestos was found at the site remains in effect. No quarrying operations have occurred since then.

Hanson Aggregates has requested future site activities be limited to removing the minimum 500 tons of aggregate annually from existing stockpiles, collecting monthly NPDES water discharge samples, and routine site inspection and security detail. The request is currently under DEP review.



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2024 BUDGET

The owner of a property in the Township with an assessment value of \$44,000 will pay \$538.34 a year in real estate property taxes (\$1.47 per day) to the Township. Of the total of 12.235 mills, 8.725 mills are designated for General Fund purposes (approximately \$383.90); 1.0 mil is designated for Fire Services (approximately \$44); 1.25 mills are designated for Permanent Capital Improvement (approximately \$55); and 1.26 mills are designated for Building Debt Service (approximately \$55.44).

A resident earning \$65,000 annually will pay \$325 in earned income tax for general purposes and \$162.50 for open space preservation. The Township also receives \$47 (Local Services Tax) from anyone who works in East Rockhill and earns over \$12,000 annually.

2024 Projects:

- Ultra-thin bonded wearing course on Branch Road from Callowhill Road to Schwenkmill Road and Blooming Glen Road;
- Hill Road section to be widened with shoulder;
- Patch paving in-house on roads to be determined;
- Stormwater improvement on Three Mile Run Road at Nockamixon Park House;
- Pines of Pennridge path overlay;
- MS4 (stormwater) permit compliance continues to reduce sediment;
- Driving Range tee area to be made wider;
- Tree maintenance in open spaces and right-of-ways continues throughout the township; and,
- East Rockhill Treatment Plant aeration tanks repaired and repainted
- Public Works maintenance building replacemnt

In 2023, Township Staff comprised of three administrative and four full-time public works employees continued to support:

- 5,819 residents in 12.9 square miles;
- 37.14 miles of Township roads and right-of-ways;
- Mowing 115 acres;
- Oversee 1,251 acres of Township-preserved land;
- Maintain three parks, three playgrounds, four dwellings, and a trail system;
- Collect spring yard waste and fall leaves;
- Operate a public golf driving range;
- Maintain in-house fleet and equipment;
- Maintain a sewer system that includes a treatment plant and pump station;
- Respond to the needs of 1,100 sewer customers;
- Review, respond, and issue up to 370 permit applications; and,
- Respond to residents' questions and concerns, and property inquires.

Old Bethlehem Pike Structure Rehabilitation



Bucks County is planning to rehabilitate a bridge on Old Bethlehem Pike that crosses over Three Mile Run. If the project cannot be coordinated with a road closure during the roundabout construction, the good news is the intersection of Three Mile Run Road and Park Avenue (Old Bethlehem Pike) will remain open to drivers.

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Weather Event Flooding



Because Three Mile Run and East Branch Perkiomen waterways are in East Rockhill Township, everyone has a role to play when flooding is predicted. Here are some suggestions:

- Property owners remove obstructions from driveway pipes, private basins, and easements;
- Our Public Works crew ensures roadway pipes are clear of debris;
- Pennridge Regional Police officers conduct routine checks of all areas known to have the potential for flooding to notify the Township of any necessary road closures.

Be prepared to be rerouted during heavy rain around the following locations in East Rockhill that tend to flood during heavy rain but subside soon after the rain has stopped falling:

- Branch Road and Schwenkmill Road;
- Branch Road and Blooming Glen Road;
- Branch Road between Cedarview Drive and Route 313;
- Blooming Glen Road at Moods Covered Bridge;
- White Road; and, Stone Edge culvert at Three Mile Run Road

After Hurricane Ida, the Board of Supervisors authorized a review of the Stone Edge culvert to determine if the culvert, designed to flood, can be improved to not flood. The review determined the estimated cost of a bridge at \$2 million.

Public Golf Driving Range Now Open

The driving range at Willard H. Markey Centennial Park (1418 Ridge Road) is open daily from dawn until dusk for golfers of all levels. Our range features matted tee stalls, a grassy area to practice fairway shots, and a sand trap to prepare you for those times your shot doesn't go as planned. A bucket of approximately 55 range balls is available using a token system.

Tokens are available at the range from a self-serve dispenser for \$5 each. Tokens can also be purchased at the Township Office for \$5 each or seven (7) for \$33. Senior citizens can purchase tokens for \$4.50 apiece.



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Perkasie Farmers Market Set to Open June 1

The award-winning Perkasie Farmers Market offers a great selection of locally and organically grown produce, meats, eggs, dairy, honey, maple syrup, preserves, baked goods, salads, prepared foods, plants, herbs, and more. Visitors also enjoy live music every week and some themed events around holidays.

The outdoor market is held every Saturday from 9 am until noon on South 7th Street and runs through the end of October.

You can follow the PFM on Facebook at @PerkasieFarmersMarket for updates.

Township Property Added to State Game Lands

Natural Lands recently acquired a 29-acre property in the Township from the Handschin family and will transfer it to the Pennsylvania Game Commission to be added to State Game Lands #139. This will make it available to the public for recreation, including hiking, bird watching, and hunting.

The Handschin property is adjacent to the 168-acre Perkasie Regional Authority (PRA) lands containing three public water supply wells. These wells derive their water supply from the underlying aquifer. In fact, groundwater is the only available source of water supply in the Perkasie area, so protecting the surrounding land, which allows rainwater to seep into the ground and recharge the aquifer, is especially important to the nearly 13,000 customers PRA serves.

Former owner Chris Handschin said he held on to the property for so long because he couldn't bear the idea of it being developed. The conservation outcome has him "over-the-moon happy and grateful that this little patch of Eden will remain natural land."

Jack Stefferud, senior director of land protection for Natural Lands, said more than half of Pennsylvania's breeding birds depend on large, intact forests. He added that any time acreage can be added to an existing forest is a victory for conservation.

The acquisition was funded by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation (via the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund – LT); the Highlands Conservation Act; and the Open Space Institute.

"Protecting open spaces like these two properties is a core part of DCNR's mission. We are pleased to see 60 acres added to Pennsylvania's public lands," DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "We thank Natural Lands for the continued work to protect and conserve open spaces, as well as the Game Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation, and the Open Space Institute for supporting these conservation projects."

Natural Lands (natlands.org) is dedicated to preserving and nurturing nature's wonders while creating opportunities for everyone to enjoy. As the Greater Philadelphia region's oldest and largest land conservation organization, the member-supported Natural Lands has preserved more than 135,000 acres, including 40+ nature preserves and one public garden totaling more than 23,000 acres. Nearly five million people live within five miles of land under the organization's protection.

Source weconservepa.org

Republic Services
Sustainability in Action

Republic Services is proud to partner with the community of East Rockhill

Republic Services has extended pricing and services to include residents outside of the trash district. Please visit the East Rockhill website for more information.



Safely Dispose of Old Medications

The Pennridge Regional Police Department takes part in a "drug take-back" program coordinated by the Bucks County District Attorney's Office, the County Detectives, and the DEA.

The Department has a Med Return dropbox located in the waiting room of the PRPD building at 200 Ridge Road. Citizens can drop their unwanted medications into the box anonymously with no questions asked. The box is routinely emptied and medications promptly turned over to the District Attorney's office for proper disposal.

2024 BUCKS COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Registration is not required in Bucks County this year.

April 6	Lower Bucks	Bucks County Community College 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, Newtown Township
May 18	Upper Bucks	Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasio, Bedminster Township
June 29	Central Bucks	Central Bucks South High School 1100 Folly Road, Warrington, Warrington Township
August 10	Lower Bucks	Bensalem High School 4319 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, Bensalem Township
October 26	Upper Bucks	Strayer Middle School 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown, Richland Township



Collection events run from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Rain or shine



What You Can Bring

Up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous products. Hazardous products will have cautionary words on the label, for example: *Danger, Warning, or Caution*. Other words or phrases that can signal hazardous products include: *poisonous, hazardous, combustible, flammable, corrosive, volatile, caustic, irritant, explosive, toxic, use with adequate ventilation, or avoid inhaling*.

Pesticides - Chlordane - DDT - Malathion - Sevin - Rodent Poison Flammables - Aerosols - Gas/Oil Mixture - Gasoline - Heating / Motor Oil - Kerosene	- Oil-based Paint - Paint Thinner - Spot Remover Caustics - Ammonia-based Cleaners - Degreasers - Drain Cleaner - Household Lye - Metal Cleaner - Oven Cleaner	Fire Extinguishers Toxics - Antifreeze - CFLs (fluorescent bulbs/tubes) - Mercury - Photographic Chemicals - Pool Chemicals - Rust/Paint Remover - Weed Killer	Batteries - Button Batteries - Lithium Batteries - Re-Chargeable Batteries Lead-Acid Batteries - Car - Marine - Motorcycle - Truck Propane Tanks - Mini Propane Tanks Only (2 lbs. or less)
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What You Can't Bring

- ELECTRONICS**-TVs-Computers-Cell Phones-Any Corded Devices
- LATEX PAINT**-Non-Hazardous Waste/Water-based*
- Appliances**-with or without Freon
- Asbestos**
- Explosives / Ammunition**
- Gas Cylinders**
- Household Batteries**-Regular Alkaline
- Medical Waste / Prescription Drugs**
- Non-Hazardous Waste**
- PCBs**
- Pressurized CFCs / Freon**
- Propane Tanks**-Greater than 16 oz.
- Smoke Detectors**
- Radioactive Waste**
- Tires**
- Unidentified Waste**

**Remove lid to allow to air dry or mix with absorbent (e.g., kitty litter) until no longer a liquid and discard in plastic trash bag.*

For additional information on disposal options, contact:

Bucks County Planning Commission
www.buckscounty.gov/recycling
 215-345-3400
 or
 The PADEP Recycling Hotline at
 1-800-346-4242

Why bring your household hazardous wastes to a scheduled event?

Household products containing toxic chemicals, like pesticides, oil-based paints, solvents, cleaning products, weed killers and automotive batteries can be a threat to people and the environment if improperly discarded. Never throw these materials into the trash, as the toxic chemicals may harm sanitation workers, or result in fires in collection vehicles. It is also not safe to pour them into a sink or storm drain as they can end up in the environment polluting the air, water, or soil.



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Stream Clean-up



Iron Bridge Park, Willard H. Markey Centennial Park, and Mood's Covered Bridge were selected this year to be part of the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy's annual stream clean-up. Every April, the Conservancy hosts a single-day watershed-wide event focused on removing trash, tires, and other debris from regional waterways. During this event, volunteers work together to clean up sites throughout the watershed.

Since its creation in 2004, the Perkiomen Stream Clean-up has grown to become the largest single-day clean-up in Pennsylvania with over 1,700 volunteers removing 1,530 bags of trash, 170 tires, and 2,360 pounds of scrap metal from 143 sites in 2023.

Look for 2025 volunteer sign up opportunities posted to the website in March 2025.

Source: Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

Stormwater Management Tips

SPRING

- **Clean-up:** Collect and dispose of any trash that might have blown into your yard over the winter. Mulch or compost leaves and garden cuttings from the fall so they don't get washed into local streams.
- **Fertilize Carefully:** Look for slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, which is less likely to harm water quality. Several small fertilizer applications spread out over the growing season is better than one large application. Never apply fertilizer before it rains!
- **Plant Natives:** Spring is a great time to plant native trees, shrubs, and perennials! Native PA species require less maintenance, are more beneficial for wildlife, and absorb more stormwater than non-natives.
- **Mow Sharp and High:** A sharp mower blade cuts grass cleanly, which improves turf health. Set your mower deck to 2.5 inches or higher to help reduce stormwater runoff. Consider converting a section of your lawn to a native garden.



SUMMER

- **Water your lawn and garden slowly.** Only water your grass and plants when necessary, and do so slowly to reduce runoff. Consider investing in irrigation hoses or gator bags.
- **Wash your car at a car wash.** When you wash your car on your driveway or the street, grease, soap, and oil can wash into streams and creeks.
- **Never dump anything down storm drains.** Remember that storm drains empty directly into local waterways without being treated. This means whatever enters a storm drain will flow into streams and creeks.
- **Direct downspouts over porous, not paved surfaces.** Direct downspouts into garden beds and lawn, or consider installing a rain barrel where possible.

Source: Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

EYE ON DEVELOPMENT *(An update on significant projects occurring in the township)*

- **730 Three Mile Run Road.** The Board of Supervisors granted Conditional Use approval and Waiver of Land Development to the Perkasio Regional Authority to construct a water filtration facility at 730 Three Mile Run Road.
- **Roundabout.** Work on the Three Mile Run Road and Park Avenue roundabout is expected to begin this spring. The project was delayed because of utility pole relocation. As soon as the road closure dates are known, we will post a notice on our website and notify all subscribers via email. The news will also be posted on X (formerly Twitter).
- **Park Hill Estates (McClennen Tract).** Site work is nearly complete and house construction is underway.
- **809 - 901 Three Mile Run Road.** In 2022, the Township received an application for a 46-unit townhouse development permitted in the Suburban Zoning District by Conditional Use, an extra layer to the approval process. After multiple extension requests from the applicant, the Board of Supervisors denied the Conditional Use application; the applicant has appealed the denial.
- **ReNew Bible Church (1600 N. Fifth Street).** The applicant is constructing an approximately 12,841-square-foot building expansion within various additions to the existing complex and improving traffic flow into and exiting the site.
- **400 Branch Road.** A sketch plan has been reviewed to replace an existing mixed-use building with an Indoor Athletic Club and a gymnasium. The land development submission is under review.

From the PA Department of Agriculture: **BE WISE WHEN YOUR FERTILIZE**

Turfgrass has become a significant component of Pennsylvania's flora, according to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania now contains over 2 million acres of lawn.

Selecting a proper turfgrass management program is essential to protecting our local waterways. Here are some helpful tips:

Know What Your Lawn Needs

When applying nutrients to your lawn, make sure you are aware of what your lawn needs and what the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law allows. To determine your lawn's nutrient needs, it is best to do a soil test, which provides specific recommendations for nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium. Following the soil test recommendations ensures you apply only what your lawn needs, thus reducing nutrient loss and fertilizer costs. Test kits can be purchased for a nominal fee from your local Penn State extension office.

The Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law

In July 2022, Pennsylvania adopted a new fertilizer law to minimize the movement of nutrients into our waterways. Anyone who applies fertilizers should be aware of the following nutrient limitations:

- Nitrogen is limited to 0.9 pounds of total nitrogen and 0.7 pounds of available nitrogen per 1,000-square-foot application;
- No phosphorus may be applied unless you are establishing or repairing turf;
- Both the nitrogen and phosphorus rates can be adjusted based on soil test recommendations if using an enhanced efficiency fertilizer, which is designed to reduce nutrient losses to the environment while increasing availability to plants;

In addition, when applying fertilizer, applicators must follow specific environmental conditions to prevent direct movement of fertilizer nutrients into our streams:

- Do not apply if heavy rain is expected.
- Keep fertilizer away from drainage ditches, storm drains, or bodies of water.
- Maintain a 15-foot buffer from the banks of all waterways.
- Remove fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and roads back onto the application area.
- Do not use as a snow or ice melt.
- Do not spread fertilizer on snow-covered or frozen ground.
- Fertilizer application between December 15 and March 1 is restricted to 0.50 lbs of total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application.

Read the Label: Manufacturers of fertilizer products must include detailed labels that provide the nutrient content and instructions for use. As a fertilizer applicator, you are strongly encouraged to read and follow all directions and apply your fertilizer using a properly calibrated spreader.

Lawn Care Considerations

Nutrient management is not the only tool that can be used to limit nutrient loss. There are many additional lawn care considerations that can be used to promote a healthy lawn while protecting our local waterways. Here are a few examples:

Fertilizer may not be the solution. If your lawn is not looking as healthy and green as you would like, sometimes fertilizer is not the answer. Applying fertilizer without understanding the underlying soil can result in a waste of money and nutrients. Many soil health factors play a critical role in maintaining your lawn.

Reducing soil compaction can improve root growth and water infiltration. Maintaining an appropriate soil pH is essential to promoting proper nutrient availability. Soil texture and organic matter content influence water movement, nutrient availability, and soil microbial ecosystem. Healthy soil supports a healthy lawn.

Raise your mower deck. Set your mower deck to 3 inches or higher. A taller lawn provides shade that discourages weed growth and promotes strong root development that helps lawns withstand environmental stress. Alternatively, you can use low-mow turf species, such as fine fescue blends, that do best when mowing is limited. A taller, healthier lawn slows water movement and increases infiltration, keeping moisture, soil, and nutrients where they are needed most.

Mulch your grass clippings. Keeping your clippings in place returns valuable organic matter and nutrients to your lawn.

Provide a buffer. Do not mow up to the banks of streams. Maintaining vegetative buffers along waterways provides wildlife habitat while slowing and filtering water before it enters the stream.

Convert your lawn. Replacing turf with native vegetation increases water infiltration, promotes biodiversity, and creates habitats for pollinators and other wildlife.

Spring Yard Waste Collection

Our Spring Yard Waste collection is scheduled by district with no registration required. The 2024 Spring Program is as follows:

District I: Collection south of and including Ridge Road the week of May 13.

District II: Collection north of Ridge Road the week of May 20.

Check the Township website for an exact map of the collection areas.

Here are a few important reminders about the program:

- Have your yard waste out by the curb by 7 am on the first day of your collection; once the truck passes, it WILL NOT return.
- Leaves, grass clippings, and invasive plants such as bamboo are NOT permitted; tree branches and brush only. No bags allowed.
- Place tree limbs and branches in neat piles at the edge of the road or driveway.
- Branches are limited to five (5) feet long and no greater than four (4) inches in diameter.
- Piles for pick-up are limited to four (4) feet wide, four (4) feet high, and five (5) feet long.
- Township employees and/or equipment are not permitted to enter private property to remove items.



If you miss the curbside collection or have additional yard waste, the East Rockhill Township Yard Waste Drop-off Center is open Monday through Saturday, from 6 am to 9 pm and on Sunday, from 6 am to noon for Township residents and residential personal recycling only; commercial landscapers are not permitted. The center is monitored electronically; violators will be prosecuted. Please follow the posted notifications at the site.

From the Desk of the Elected Tax Collector

There have been some enhancements at the tax office since last year. I have changed credit card companies and am now using Gov Pay. The fee they charge is 2.5%, which is .5% lower than the previous company. You can also now pay by e-check. The fee for that is \$1.50, but saves you from sending the check and postage fees. Please also visit my new website at <https://eastrockhilltax.wixsite.com/taxoffice> where you will find extra office hours and links to pay your tax bill.

The 2024 Bucks County and East Rockhill Township real estate taxes were mailed to all property owners on March 1. County taxes increased by 2 mills from last year. Township taxes did not increase.

Taxes are due in the discount amount by April 30 or face amount by June 30. After June 30, they are due in the penalty amount.

Pennridge School District real estate taxes will be mailed on July 1 and are due in discount amount by August 31 or the face amount until October 31. After October 31, your school taxes will be due in penalty until the end of the year.

If you would like to pay the school bills in installments, the first installment must be postmarked by August 31. The remaining two installment coupons will be mailed in September. The second installment is due October 31, with the final installment due on December 15. Please note that if you elect to opt-in to pay by installments, you cannot opt-out after the first payment is made.

If you do not receive your tax bills in the mail, please contact me for a copy as soon as possible. PA law states that failure to receive the tax bill does not relieve taxpayers of their responsibility to pay the taxes due.

If the property you own is your primary residence, you may be eligible to receive a reduction in your school tax bill as part of the Pennsylvania Taxpayer Relief Act. Please check last year's school receipt to make sure you received the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion. Please contact me if you have any questions.

For your convenience, a drop box is available on the front of the garage at 2037 Hill Road for payments.

If you would like to verify your tax payments were received or have any other concerns, please contact me at 215-453-8866 or by email at eastrockhilltax@gmail.com. I would be happy to assist you with any questions that you have.



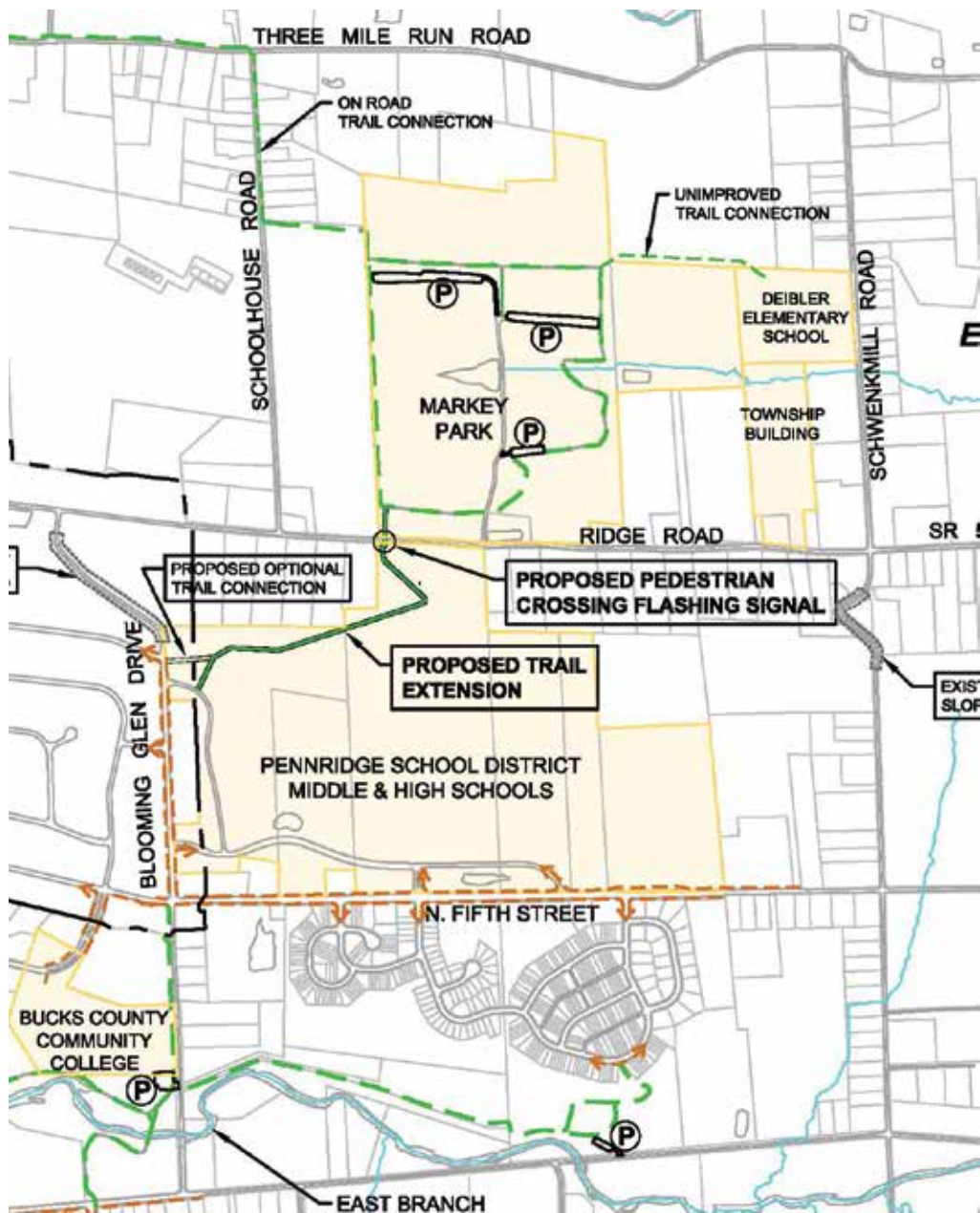
Code Enforcement

Any concerns about work being done without permits can be directed to the Township for possible enforcement action.

In Our Parks

- **Daffodil donation:** Thanks to a donation from resident Jenya Rowe, walkers can enjoy colorful daffodils along the Branch Creek walking trail's tree line.
- **Iron Bridge Park** – because of the deteriorating streambank, the path is to be relocated and the streambank repaired.
- **Proposed Trail Extension** – The Township continues efforts with grant applications to extend a walking trail from Willard H. Markey Centennial Park across Ridge Road and provide access to Blooming Glen Road at Pennridge High School campus. (see photo below)
- **Willard H. Markey Centennial Park** – the playset and swings will be replaced this spring, and the golf driving range tee area widened

PROPOSED TRAIL EXTENSION



How You Can Stay Informed

- **Real-Time Email Notifications:** Create and verify a website account and select what notifications you want delivered to your inbox
- **Monthly Enewsletter:** You can have the Enews delivered directly to your inbox a few days before each monthly Board of Supervisors meeting. A sign-up link is provided on the homepage.
- **Printed Bi-annual Newsletter:** This newsletter is mailed twice a year to all township residents. Thanks to advertising support from local businesses, it is provided at no cost to taxpayers.
- **Contact Staff:** township administration and staff are available to answer questions or hear suggestions from residents about how we can better serve the community. They are best equipped to deal with day-to-day issues.

EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

General Information and Directory

www.EastRockhillTownship.org

Manager@EastRockhillTownship.org

ADMINISTRATION

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944

Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

215-257-9156

PUBLIC WORKS

1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944

Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM

PENNRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA 18960

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 215-328-8502

ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

Kathleen Percetti

Mailing: P.O. Box 68, Perkasie, PA 18944

Office: 2037 Hill Road, Sellersville, PA 18960

215-453-8866

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dave Nyman, *Chairperson*

Gary Volovnik, *Vice-Chairperson*

Jim Nietupski, *Member*

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Marianne Morano, *Township Manager*

Jeff Scholl, *Public Works Director*

Samantha Salemno, *Administrative Assistant*

Bonnie Schorr, *Accountant*

Paul Behr, *Foreman*

Kirby Richards, *Laborer*

Latrell Belfield, *Laborer*

MEETING DATES

Board of Supervisors	4th Tuesday, except in December meeting is advertised for 12/17, 7:00 PM
Planning Commission	1st and 2nd Thursday as needed 7:00 PM
Park & Recreation	2nd Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug, Nov as needed 7:00 PM
Police Commission	4th Wednesday except Nov and Dec meeting is advertised for 11/21 and 12/19, 5:00 PM
Zoning Hearing Board	Scheduled as Needed
UCC Joint Appeal Board	2nd Wednesday as needed 7:00 PM



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