



Chester County Conservation District

Self-Guided Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Tour

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Executive Summary

Chester County Self-Guided Stormwater BMP Tour

The Self-Guided Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Tour developed by Chester County Conservation District features twenty-one sites that demonstrate the use of stormwater best management practices (BMPs). BMP's on the tour and described in this handbook include structural and non-structural measures that combine standard, innovative, and alternative practices and methods for managing stormwater runoff to minimize its adverse impacts to the waterways and watersheds. Lands where these BMPs are located include commercial, residential, and recreational sites. Some of these BMPs are new designs and newly constructed, some have been in place and functioning for many years, while others are new designs that attempt to mimic nature and replicate natural functions. BMPs on the tour include practices that: filter and trap stormwater runoff pollutants (i.e. biofiltration swales, constructed treatment wetlands, water quality inlets devices); recharge groundwater supplies (i.e. infiltration trenches and recharge basins, native grass meadows, porous pavement,); stabilize base flow in streams (i.e., infiltration structures); protect and preserve riparian lands and naturally-occurring wetlands using institutional measures (i.e., conservation easements and deed restrictions).

This self-guided tour is intended to educate the community, provoke critical thinking, and generate support for the use of BMPs. The tour includes sites in different geographic areas of Chester County in an effort to reach developers, designers, engineers, government officials, students, watershed associations and conservation groups throughout the County. The Conservation District expects that over time new sites will be added and current sites may be discontinued.

Tour participants receive a tour guide handbook and instructions on visiting the BMP sites (some sites have limited access and visiting restrictions for security reasons). Alternatively, photos and descriptions of BMP sites can be accessed electronically on Chester County Conservation District Web Site. Persons completing the tour will receive a Certificate of Completion from the Chester County Conservation District.

Credits

Chester County Conservation District extends a sincere thank you to engineers, developers, site managers, landowners referenced in this Guide for their time and input making the BMP Tour possible

*Tour Guide Prepared by Elizabeth Feinberg (Paoli, PA)
under contract to the Chester County Conservation District*

Tour Guidelines and Rules

Chester County Self-Guided Stormwater BMP Tour

To participate in the tour and visit BMP sites, individuals must agree to adhere to the following rules and comply with all individual site restrictions listed on respective site fact sheets. Please review site fact sheets to understand all tour restrictions and limitations for respective sites prior to taking the BMP tour. Any person unable to comply with these rules and site restrictions, is encouraged to take the virtual tour via the Chester County Conservation District Web Site.

Note: Property owners and managers are generously offering their sites for the educational benefit of the community, please help make this program successful by being courteous and using proper etiquette when touring sites.

- **All tour participants, tour sites at their own risk. By participating in the Chester County Self-Guided Stormwater BMP Tour and visiting BMP sites, YOU are agreeing to hold harmless from any and all damages that might occur to you and/or your personal property both the Chester County Conservation District and the site landowner, manager, and/or site operator.** If you cannot accept this risk, take the virtual tour on the District's Web Site.
- Use proper etiquette when visiting BMP Tour sites on private and public properties (i.e., avoid loud activities when on sites, avoid over-extended visits, be courteous and polite to facility owners, managers, tenants, and customers).
- Schedule an appointment in advance for sites where site owner has required advanced scheduling.
- When visiting sites, consider site activities and uses and schedule your visit to avoid high traffic and high activity periods at respective sites. For example, avoid rush hour in business parks; avoid community events at recreational facilities (i.e., golf tournaments); avoid busy shopping seasons/times when parking may be limited at retail sites;
- We recommend carpooling larger groups to the sites to minimize the need for parking. Use marked parking spaces where available.
- Any trash that you might generate while at a site, should be taken with you when you depart.

