**Privately-owned stormwater conveyance facilities**

Site grading, drainage swales, drainage channels, and underground storm sewer pipes are commonly used mechanisms to control stormwater runoff with the intent of directing water away from your foundations or through your property.  Many properties in Spring Garden Township were designed and constructed for residential development with water drainage ditches or swales in the side and rear yard areas.  Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of these drainage swales on their property.  Such maintenance activities include mowing of grass or other vegetation, removal of leaves, sticks and branches, debris, garbage, refuse, trash or any other encumbrance that reduces or obstructs the free flow of water through the swale.

Throughout the years (even earlier than the 1930’s), property owners wishing to level their yards, piped in the swales/ditches and covered the pipes with soil to allow for grass to grow. The piped in areas are privately owned by the property owners. Property owners may **not** even realize a drainage area on their property has been piped and filled over.**Property owners are responsible for the repair and/or replacement of privately owned drainage pipes and failing stormwater conveyance systems.**

The Township strives to maintain a comprehensive inventory of all publicly and privately-owned stormwater facilities.  **Many privately-owned facilities remain undocumented** due to their installation being completed without Township permission or prior to the establishment of a formal Township approval process.  Regularly, Township staff identifies privately owned facilities when conducting sanitary sewer maintenance or when responding to complaints of sinkholes or other system failures.

The Township has adopted a policy that in the event the Township locates failing privately owned stormwater infrastructure, the property owner will receive notice to correct the issue within a minimum of 30 days. You will need to hire a contractor if you cannot do the work yourself.

The literature below may be helpful to you as a homeowner:

[SW\_Booklet\_2017.pdf (psu.edu)](https://www.phrc.psu.edu/assets/docs/publications/SW_Booklet_2017.pdf)