



Borough of Chambersburg

A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chambersburg Receives \$150,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to Address Stormwater Issues on Rail Trail

Chambersburg – On June 9, 2022, the Borough of Chambersburg received a grant award of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) to implement further a green infrastructure project along the Borough’s section of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail in Downtown Chambersburg.

Officials from the Bay Trust, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Borough, and other grant recipients gathered at the project site on June 24 to highlight the Borough’s project, which will address storm water management issues between the Rail Trail and the Conococheague Creek. “We are honored that the Chesapeake Bay Trust has recognized the efforts of the Borough to promote green infrastructure and sustainability construction practices,” stated Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager.

Andrew Stottlemeyer, the Borough’s Storm Sewer System Manager, explained the project’s objectives, saying, “This grant will be used to implement a multi-layered storm water management solution that will reduce runoff into the Conococheague Creek, reduce associated flooding in the immediate area, address stream bank stabilization, and implement green infrastructure components.”

The Borough prides itself as being a clean, green, safe, and healthy community. The project will ultimately protect the environmental education and outdoor recreational opportunities of the Chambersburg Rail Trail. The project epitomizes an overarching goal to benefit the health, functionality, and sustainability of the community through efficient and effective storm water management. Additionally, the project will result in reduced street flooding, the planting of 35 new trees, 150 native plants, 1,764 square yards of pollinator friendly plants, 1,000 square feet of reforestation/afforestation, and removal of invasive species.

“This Project aligns well with the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, as well as local watershed organizations, such as the Franklin County Watershed Association, through the implementation of Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recognized best management practices (BMPs), ” said Jana Davis of the Trust.

The Chesapeake Bay Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program, funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust was created to support design projects, financing strategies, and/or implementation of green street projects. The goal of this grant program is to help communities develop and implement plans that reduce storm water runoff, increase the number and amount of green spaces in urban areas, improve the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay, and enhance quality of life and community livability.

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program provides competitive funding throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. This round, the Trust received more than \$2.7 million in requests for the \$1 million funding available in the program.

For more information about the Borough and this grant opportunity, please contact Storm Sewer System Manger Andrew Stottlemeyer at 717-251-2434.

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality providing electric and gas to residents and businesses. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate multiple generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 1,000 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 60 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg has a famous Aquatic Center as well. Chambersburg, the County Seat of Franklin County, currently has 20,832 residents (2020).