

# ALDERFER ROAD & PARK AVENUE

## STORMWATER BASINS RETROFIT



Why are  
stormwater  
management  
facilities  
important?

### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

#### **West Branch of the Skippack Creek Impairment**

Since 2002, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has assigned an "Impaired" designation to the creek due to sediment and nutrients. The sediment comes from impervious surface runoff, such as roads, driveways, sidewalks and patios. The nutrients can come from fertilizers, wastewater, animal waste and detergents.

### WHAT DID THE TOWNSHIP DO?

#### **Retrofit Design**

The Township Engineer prepared a design to meet the current water quality goals of the PADEP.

#### **Grant Funding Secured**

Through the MONTCO 2040 Grant Program the Township was awarded funds to complete stormwater basin retrofit.

#### **Construction**

In 2023 the Township's contractor performed excavation, pipe and inlet replacements, grading, rip-rap apron installation and landscape restoration work to achieve the project design.

When stormwater is retained in basins for a longer period of time there is a reduction in the amount of sediment and excess nutrients that will be transported to Skippack Creek. Retaining water for longer periods of time allows the problematic sediment to settle out. Additionally, stormwater is given the opportunity to infiltrate into the ground or be taken up by plants, which also helps to reduce nutrients, before it discharges to the stream.

The basins are planted with native meadow grasses, flowers and plants to create a natural landscape to provide for evapotranspiration and infiltration.

The Township estimates that this retrofit project results in an annual reduction of nearly 40 tons of sediment, significantly improving the water quality in the stream.