



Pittsburgh  
Water & Sewer  
Authority



May 10, 2016

**Re: Water Quality Sampling in the Saw Mill Run Watershed**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), in conjunction with the Saw Mill Run Watershed Association, Economic Development South (EDS) and partner municipalities, are conducting a watershed assessment of Saw Mill Run and related streams. This watershed assessment is part of a study to understand pollution sources in Saw Mill Run, and to improve water quality in the watershed as they are identified. The current phase of the watershed assessment is a water quality sampling program. Water samples will be collected from streams during both dry and wet weather, and analyzed to determine the type and amount of pollutants.

The sampling crews will be in your neighborhoods beginning in May 2016, and will continue sampling throughout the summer. The crews will be collecting samples at various times of day during rain events. Mott MacDonald, Collective Efforts, LLC, and Sci-Tek, consultants to PWSA for this important project will conduct the work. The crews will collect samples in the streams; however, to gain access to the stream channel, they may need to walk through private property. The sampling crews will have marked vehicles, windshield signage, reflective safety vests, and PWSA authorized identification.

We appreciate your cooperation on this project. Please feel free to pass along this information to those in your organization who may encounter the sampling crews (e.g. Public Works staff), as well as those who may get questions from the public regarding the water quality sampling program.

Please call Katherine Camp, Green Infrastructure Program Manager at PWSA, at 412-255-8800 x2656 or Lisa Brown, Director of the Saw Mill Run Watershed Association (Economic Development South), at 412-884-1400 x104 if you have any questions about this project. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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# Saw Mill Run Water Quality Sampling Program Fact Sheet

## Background:

- Streams in the Saw Mill Run watershed have been listed as impaired streams by DEP for several water quality deficiencies.
- The watershed also has regulatory requirements for meeting the Clean Water Act, controlling Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) & Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) discharges, addressing nutrient loads and Acid Mine Drainage related issues.
- The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) and the municipalities within the Saw Mill Run watershed are responsible for meeting these requirements under various individual municipal permits.

## Overall Project Information:

- PWSA is developing an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) to address the water quality impairments in the Saw Mill Run watershed.
- The municipalities contributing to the Saw Mill Run watershed and other stakeholders are coordinating with PWSA for this project. The municipalities are Baldwin, Bethel Park, Brentwood, Castle Shannon, Crafton, Dormont, Green Tree, Mount Lebanon, Mount Oliver, Scott, Whitehall, and the City of Pittsburgh. See map on reverse.
- The purpose of this work is to identify and evaluate a wide spectrum of water quality and water quantity issues, and align mitigation opportunities and demonstration projects throughout the watershed to address these issues. Ultimately, the goal is to arrive at solutions that cost-effectively achieve compliance with the Pennsylvania water quality standards and the Clean Water Act.

## Water Quality Sampling Program Information:

- Crews are collecting water quality data at 17 sampling locations throughout the watershed. Sampling is dependent on weather conditions and will take place during both dry weather and wet weather events. Sampling is expected to be completed during the Spring and Summer of 2016.
- PWSA's sampling team includes professionals from Mott MacDonald, LimnoTech, Collective Efforts and Sci-Tek. Field crews will be seen periodically throughout the watershed for the next several months.
- The water quality data being collected will be used to identify pollution sources in the Saw Mill Run watershed and quantify benefits of potential control strategies. The data being collected during this sampling program is critical for identifying the types of solutions that will be needed and the locations where they will have the largest positive impact on the entire watershed.

*If you have any questions or concerns about the sampling program, please contact Katherine Camp (PWSA) at (412) 255-8800 ext. 2656, or Lisa Brown (Saw Mill Run Watershed Association), at 412-884-1400 ext. 104.*



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