



# GROWING ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY: HOW WARMINSTER MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY BUILT PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH ITS AWARD-WINNING TREE PLANTING EVENT

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In 2024, Warminster Municipal Authority (WMA) deepened its commitment to public engagement and environmental stewardship through a series of community-focused stormwater events. Among these initiatives, one stood out—not only for its environmental impact, but for the partnerships and public participation it inspired. This effort, WMA’s Fall 2024 Community Tree Planting Event, earned the Authority a PMAA Community Engagement Award, recognizing its exemplary collaboration, innovation, and public involvement.

## A GROWING MISSION SINCE BECOMING BUCKS COUNTY’S FIRST STORMWATER AUTHORITY

WMA serves approximately 38,000 residents and 11,000 customer accounts in Bucks County, providing water, wastewater, and stormwater services. When the Authority acquired the stormwater system in 2021 and implemented its stormwater fee in 2022—the first of its kind in the county—it also accepted the responsibility of meeting MS4 permit requirements, including the essential components of **Public Education and Public Involvement**.



Since launching its stormwater division, WMA has placed strong emphasis on transparent communication, fee-reduction opportunities for residents, and active community partnerships. These commitments have guided the Authority’s approach to hosting stream cleanups, educational sessions, and volunteer events that invite residents to participate directly in improving local waterways.

## A PARTNERSHIP-POWERED EVENT

The Fall 2024 Tree Planting Event exemplified WMA’s collaborative approach. Initiated through grant funding secured by State Representative Brian Munroe for the Neshaminy Watershed Association, the project brought together a diverse group of community partners, including:

- Warminster Township Board of Supervisors
- Members of the Warminster Municipal Authority Board
- Warminster Rotary Club
- Penn State Master Watershed Stewards
- Warminster Township Environmental Advisory Council
- Ben Wilson Senior Center
- Victory Gardens
- Warminster Boy Scout Troop 139



Together with WMA staff, these organizations helped design an event focused on improving riparian buffer zones—a natural and cost-effective stormwater management solution.

## HANDS IN THE DIRT, EYES ON THE FUTURE

Over two consecutive days, nearly **40 volunteers** planted close to **80 native trees and shrubs** throughout key riparian areas in Warminster. The

event's success reflected not only the level of community participation, but the thoughtful planning behind it. WMA provided administrative oversight, coordinated planting locations, and ensured environmental best practices guided the work.

Importantly, the event required only minimal use of WMA's operating funds. Grant support and a generous contribution from the Warminster Rotary Club covered the cost of plant materials, allowing the project to deliver significant environmental benefits at a low cost to ratepayers.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THAT RESONATES

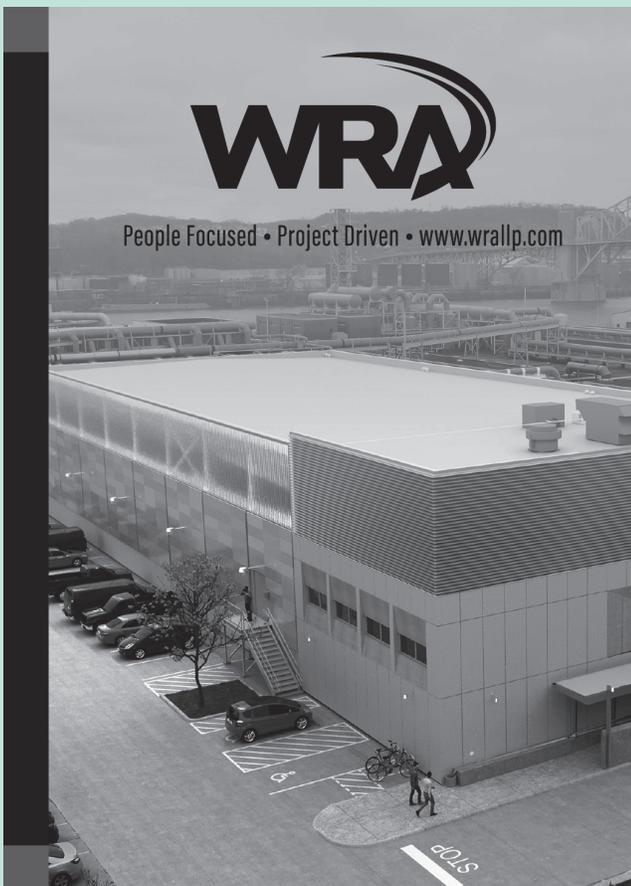
Stormwater management can often feel abstract or invisible to the public. Through hands-on events like the Fall 2024 tree planting, WMA brings this work to life. Residents not only contribute meaningfully to healthier waterways—they also enjoy opportunities to reduce their stormwater fees through participation, further strengthening public understanding and support.

For WMA, these events represent more than volunteer hours. They are a demonstration of the Authority's commitment to leading by example, fostering environmental stewardship, and building long-lasting partnerships that enrich the community.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As WMA's newly formed construction division becomes more active and stormwater initiatives continue expanding, the Authority remains dedicated to offering programs that educate, involve, and empower residents. The Fall 2024 Tree Planting Event stands as a model of how municipal authorities can unite technical mandates with meaningful, community-driven impact.

Receiving the PMAA Community Engagement Award is both an honor and a motivator—reaffirming Warminster Municipal Authority's belief that sustainable infrastructure begins with an involved and informed community. 💧



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