We need green infrastructure

Last week, we discussed Pottstown's stormwater management plan, developed last year by a consulting engineer.

The plan, which calls for repairing arches over covered streams and repairing and adding on to miles of existing storm sewer pipes, has yet to be formally adopted.

Unfortunately, the plan gives short shrift to the most promising method of storm water management, called green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure calls for removing as much impervious surface as possible and installing trees and other water-absorbing plants in its place.

Philadelphia is the largest American city to be certified by the federal Environmental Protection Agency to use green infrastructure to control stormwater, but scores of other cities are also doing it. Even PennDOT is planting gardens along I-95 in Philadelphia to absorb stormwater flowing off the highway. By 2023, 70 "rain gardens" will border the highway to catch and absorb stormwater before it flows into the city's storm sewer system.

Pottstown has some examples of green infrastructure that we'll discuss in future columns.