Mayor Andrew Nowick



A native of western Massachusetts, Andrew Nowick currently serves full time as the mayor of Lambertville. Having no background in government or finance, he was elected two months after the remnants of tropical storm Ida swept through Lambertville, causing many millions of dollars in damage to private and public property. Mayor Nowick was sworn into office on January 4, 2022 and immediately set to work overseeing recovery and mitigation efforts.

While overseeing this work, he simultaneously established short and long term resilience goals which he is working tirelessly to implement.

Mayor Nowick lives with his husband of twenty years and togther they have reared three sons. Their present domestic project is catering to the expansive demands of a border terrier named Archer.

City of Lambertville



- 1.2 square miles, population: 4,139
- 17 miles of roadways
- Delaware River along western boundry
- Steep slopes along eastern boundry
- Three creeks run through city



- Seven major riverine floods since 1841
- Two major flash floods-Irene 2011 & Ida 2021
- 86 NFIP designated Repetitive or Severe Repetitive Loss properties.

Hurricane Ida



During four hours on the evening of September 1, 2021, Lambertville received upwards of ten inches of rain. As a result:

- The fire department responded to 158 calls for emergency services and rescues
- 44 unit Village apartment complex was evacuated by boat and later condemned.
- More than 130 properties not in a designated flood zone suffered damage ranging from moderate to catastrophic, including two houses that were completely destroyed
- Over 400 individual property damage reports were filed with the City in the week after Ida
- Three dozen vehicles were destroyed
- Scores of families left Lambertville

Hurricane Ida



Hurricane Ida



- \$6,856,905 paid in NFIP claims at 102 properties
- \$2,074,664 in direct grant payments to 272 applicants
- \$2,978, 612 in infrastructure repair grants including roads, creeks, culverts, and storm drains, completed by December 2022 (FEMA and USDA/NRCS)
- On April 1, 2022, 80 volunteers removed an estimated six thousand pounds of debris from the creeks
- Two homes aquired through the Blue Acres program. Two more are pending
- Establishment of Lambertville Resilience Team

Lambertville

Flooding on July 15, 2023



- On July 15, the City suffered two unforecasted back-to-back storms that resulted in flash flooding
- Significant drainage issues due to debris blocked inlets and insufficient, outdated infrastructure
- Took several days for the DPW to clear all blocked inlets and culverts
- Two large trees fell during the storm, one on a house, the second on a main power line near the Central Business District
- These rainfall events are occurring with greater frequency and unpredictability
- Warren County was declared a Federal Disaster Area by President Biden – met the threshold of \$16.5 million in damages

Bridge Street



Swan Creek

Church Street





Stormwater Infrastructure



- Wide Range of 19th and 20th Century Systems
- Three creeks: Alexauken, Swan, and Ely
- More than 530 stormwater inlets
- More than two dozen outfalls
- Half a dozen detention basins
- Three major culverts and a dozen or more smaller culverts
- Miles of underground pipes of clay, metal, or concrete
- Swales, gullies, ditches
- Cross Jurisdictional Systems (DOT, County, Municipal)











Challenges



- Topography: steep, wooded slopes, Delaware river flood plain, three creeks
- Debris, especially from dead ash trees
- Stormwater from multiple watersheds passes through Lambertville.
- High percentage of impervious surface
- Heavier precipitation in shorter periods, creating greater strain on systems
- Aging systems and insufficient capacities
- Day to day maintenance: DPW staffing seven full time employees whose primary focus is trash/recycling collection
- Funding both for regular maintenance and capital projects
- New MS4 Tier A regulations
- Development pressures
- No Regional Stormwater Management
- Cross jurisdictional systems
- Surprises







A Network of Solutions



- Established the Lambertville Resilience Team
- Education newsletter, videos, website
- Grants: FEMA, USDA, NFWF grant, DEP grants (Resilience Planner and Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study), NJLCV Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study, North Jersey Vibrant Places and Rutgers Transportation Center grant for *Flowing Together*, \$450,000 federal earmark for green infrastructure and stormwater management on Music Mountain, Tree inventory grant, Sustainable Jersey, PSE&G grant for trees
- Green Infrastructure
- Amended Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
 and Stormwater Management Ordinance
- Compliant with new MS4 Tier A regulations
- Completed mapping of all stormwater inlets, outfalls, and detention basins
- Completed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
- Stormwater Utility

Stormwater Utility

- N.J. Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act, signed into law in 2019
- Authorizes local and county governments the ability to create stormwater utilities that provide a dedicated funding source for stormwater management and capital improvements to stormwater infrastructure
- A Utility establishes reasonable and equitable fees based on proportionate contribution of stormwater and allows for partial credits based on Stormwater reduction. The only exemption is for properties that fall under the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964
- With assistance from NJ Future, Lambertville received a grant from the NJLCV to conduct a feasibility study
- Have a signed contract to conduct the study with Princeton Hydro who has partnered with WSP, an international firm with decades of experience in Stormwater management
- Once the study is complete, the goal is to put this to a referendum in fall 2024