

Stormwater Utility FAQ For Fiscal Year 2023

Waynesboro City Council adopted an ordinance in 2015 to provide stable funding to support a local [stormwater management program](#). This document is intended to provide basic information regarding the Stormwater Utility Fee.



- **Q:** What is a Stormwater Utility Fee?
- **A:** A Stormwater Utility Fee is a "fee for service" based on the cost to manage stormwater that runs off roofs and commercial parking areas. All money collected by the fee can only be used for stormwater management activities.
- **Q:** What does the Stormwater Utility Fee pay for?
- **A:**
 - o Regulatory Compliance for increasing state and federal requirements
 - o Stormwater system maintenance such as cleaning inlets, pipes, and ditches and replacing older, failing pipes
 - o Capital projects, including the following:
 - o - Mandated pollution reductions
 - o - Projects to reduce local flooding -
- **Q:** How much does the fee cost?
- **A:**
 - o **63% of Residential users will pay the base fee of \$4.70 per month**
 - o **27% of Residential users will pay \$2.35 per month, or half the base fee**
 - o **Non-Residential** fees are based on the overall impervious area of a parcel divided by the Equivalent Residential Unit of 1,600 square feet then multiplied by \$4.70 per month
- **Q:** How is the Stormwater Utility Fee determined for a property?
- **A:** The fees are all based on the measurement of solid surfaces on a property that will not allow rain water to seep into the ground (i.e. buildings and parking areas). This area was measured on aerial photography using computer mapping software. Residential fees are only applied to building footprints such as houses, garages, and outbuildings.
- **Q:** How are the fees billed?
- **A:** The fees are collected twice per year, with one bill due in July and one due in December.

- **Q:** What if I think the Stormwater Utility Fee for my property is not correct?
- **A:** The City policy is to review any bill in question. City staff will address simple mathematical or measurement errors as quickly as possible. Property owners will need to demonstrate the measurement was done incorrectly in cases where there is not an obvious error. A [Petition for Adjustment Form](#) is available on the City's website. Additionally, the impervious area for each parcel in the City is updated annually on the GIS Mapping section of the City's website.

- **Q:** My property has a stormwater facility on-site. Will the fee still apply?
- **A:** Yes. The fee will still apply to impervious area on the property but a credit may be available.
- **Q:** Is there anything I can do to reduce my bill?
- **A:** Yes. The adopted ordinance establishes the steps to receive credit for a property owner with a stormwater facility on their parcel. A [Credit Application Form](#) is available on the City's website.
- **Q:** Was there a public input process for considering the Stormwater Utility Fee?
- **A:** Yes. A [Community Advisory Committee](#) was developed in September 2014 to provide City Council with the original recommendation for a fair stormwater utility fee for Waynesboro. City staff analyzed historical costs and developed future budget expenses to provide City Council with information on the amount of revenues necessary to sustain regulatory compliance and maintain our drainage system. Past City Council agendas and meeting minutes are available on the City's website.
- **Q: Why is the fee increasing?**
- **A: City staff reviewed the costs for maintenance operations and permit requirements to reduce pollution. The results of this analysis led staff to recommend a fee increase to City Council to keep up with progress on fixing drainage problems and stay in compliance with state and federal permits.**
- **Q:** I already pay taxes – is this fee really necessary?
- **A:** Waynesboro is one of 22 localities in Virginia with a stormwater utility fee. The City faces increasing mandates to monitor and maintain the stormwater system. Also, the infrastructure in the community is aging, and the costs for operating and maintaining the public stormwater system are growing. A properly operating stormwater system is critical to protecting public health and safety, minimizing flooding, and meeting water quality protection requirements. The Stormwater Utility Fee allows the City to have a dedicated, stable fund to support needed investment in the public stormwater management system.
- **Q:** Where can I learn more about the program?
- **Online at www.waynesboro.va.us/291/Stormwater-Administration or by calling 942-6626 X 3.**