



**Department of Public Works**  
**Stormwater Management Program**

941 Fir Street  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

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**Stormwater Utility FAQ**  
**October 20, 2015**

Waynesboro City Council has adopted an ordinance to put in place a system of service charges 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 will the Stormwater Utility Fee pay for?
- **A:**
  - o Regulatory Compliance for increasing state and federal requirements
  - o Stormwater system cleaning and repairs
  - o Capital projects, including the following:
    - o - Mandated pollution reductions
    - o - Drainage Improvement projects to address local flooding
    - o - Major Drainage projects needed to improve the City's stormwater system
- **Q:** How much will this cost?
- **A:**
  - o **63% of Residential users will pay the base fee of \$3.42 per month**
  - o **27% of Residential users will pay \$1.71 per month, or half the base fee**
  - o **Non-Residential** fees are based on the overall impervious area divided by the Equivalent Residential Unit of 1600 then multiplied by \$3.42 per month
- **Q:** How is the Stormwater Utility Fee determined for a property?
- **A:** The fees are all based on the amount of impermeable surface 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.
- **Q:** How will the fees be billed?
- **A:** The fees will be collected twice per year, with one bill due in June and one due in December. The first bill of the new program will be issued at the same time as real estate tax bills in October 2015 and will be due in December 2015.
- **Q:** What if I think the Stormwater Utility Fee for my property was determined incorrectly?
- **A:** The City 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. After November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 the impervious area for each parcel in the City will be available 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 a recommendation for a stormwater utility. The group reviewed the drivers for the stormwater program in-depth. The group then recommended a utility fee structure to Council. Past City Council agendas and meeting minutes are available on the City's website.
- **Q:** I already pay taxes so is this fee really necessary?
- **A:** Waynesboro is the twenty-first city in Virginia to adopt a stormwater utility fee. 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 will allow 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](http://www.waynesboro.va.us/291/Stormwater-Administration) or by calling 942-6775.**