



HOW DO YOU DETERMINE HOW MUCH I WILL PAY?

A stormwater utility fee is based on two factors: 1) the cost of the municipal stormwater management program, and 2) the amount of impervious surface on a property.

To determine the amount of runoff that will be generated (as measured by impervious surfaces) an “ERU” (Equivalent Runoff Unit) is calculated. The ERU is equal to the average impervious area of all the single-family homes in Oshkosh.

In the City of Oshkosh, an ERU was calculated to equal 2,817 square feet. Each single-family homeowner will pay the cost for one ERU. All other

types of properties will pay for multiple ERUs based upon the amount of their actual impervious area. Undeveloped property will pay no stormwater utility fee until the land is developed.

The stormwater utility fee will be added as a separate line item on the quarterly utility bill each property already receives for sanitary sewer and drinking water services. 🗑️



A BETTER FUTURE

The City of Oshkosh is striving to protect its infrastructure, businesses, and homes from damage due to flooding. It is also working towards improving the water quality of its nearby lakes and rivers so that its citizens may boat, fish, and swim in clean water. A stormwater utility is a more equitable and fair system to support stormwater management services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

David Patek
 Director of Public Works
 215 Church Avenue
 P.O. Box 1130
 Oshkosh, WI 54903-1130
 (920) 236-5065

Scott Erickson
 Asst. Director of Public Works
 215 Church Avenue
 P.O. Box 1130
 Oshkosh, WI 54903-1130
 (920) 236-5065



A STORMWATER UTILITY FOR OSHKOSH



reaches the lakes and rivers, it can hurt the fish and plants that live there. It can also cause algae to grow making boating, swimming, or fishing in these water bodies less desirable.

FLOODING

“Imperviousness” results when houses or buildings are built on a lot that was previously vegetated. An impervious surface does not allow water to soak into the ground. For example, driveways, rooftops, parking lots, and streets are considered to be impervious surfaces.

Increased areas of impervious surface result in more water running off the land and can lead to flooding.



WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is the water that runs off property when it rains. Stormwater flows into streets, storm sewers, and ditches and is carried directly into the nearby lakes and/or rivers.

POLLUTION

When stormwater flows across driveways, parking lots, lawns, streets and other surfaces, it can pick up pollutants along the way. The pollution comes from several sources: oil that leaks from vehicles, tire and brake lining wear, pesticides on lawns, leaves, etc. When this pollution

Examples of Estimated Utility Fees for Different Property Types				
Type of Property	Square Feet of Impervious Area	ERUs	Quarterly Charge	Annual Charge
Single Family	2,817	1.0	\$10.09	\$40.36
Fast Food Restaurant	35,186	12.5	\$126.13	\$504.50
Church (average)	43,382	15.4	\$155.39	\$621.54
Apartment Complex	133,009	47.2	\$476.25	\$1,904.99
Large Discount Retail	438,794	155.7	\$1,571.01	\$6,284.05

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In the past, stormwater management focused only on handling the “quantity” of water from precipitation and the resulting flooding issues. Storm sewers and ditches were built to quickly carry stormwater away from homes and buildings so that it would not back up and flood adjoining properties.

More recently, the “quality” aspect of stormwater management has become increasingly important. Pollution from stormwater is recognized as a major reason for impairment to rivers and lakes in Wisconsin.



Federal and state governments have initiated regulatory programs for stormwater pollution control. These programs must be carried out by the local units of government. This new emphasis on stormwater management strives to protect and improve our valuable water resources. However, it also means that cities must spend more money on stormwater management than they had in the past.

WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY?

A stormwater utility is a way to fund the cost of municipal stormwater management services. The

stormwater utility will operate similar to an electric, water, or wastewater utility. Properties within the city will pay for stormwater management services based on the amount of runoff generated from each property. Citizens and businesses will be charged a utility fee for the services provided based on the amount of impervious surface on their property.

WHAT WILL I GET FROM A STORMWATER UTILITY?

A stormwater utility assures that there will be funding for the city to pay for the stormwater services it provides. Some of these services include street



sweeping, storm sewer maintenance and repair, new storm sewer construction, leaf collection, and the administrative costs associated with stormwater management. The stormwater utility fees will also pay for practices to help improve water quality and reduce flooding.

Currently, the funding for these services is generated from property taxes. Paying stormwater management service costs with property taxes puts the burden of cost on the value of the property. This method does not account for the amount of runoff generated from the property. Currently in Oshkosh, single-family homes generate about 27% of the stormwater runoff in the city. However, they pay for about 54% of the costs. With the creation of a stormwater utility, property owners will pay in proportion to the amount of runoff their property creates. 🏠