

## **Stormwater Utility - A Brief Overview**

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What is a Storm Water Utility? This is an entity that is responsible for the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of a community's storm water drainage system. The utility can operate similar to electric, water or wastewater utilities. Residents and businesses are charged a utility fee for the services provided based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. Purpose of a Storm Water Utility: A storm water utility assures that there will be funding for a community to pay for storm water services that it provides. Some of these services include street sweeping, storm sewer maintenance and repair, new storm sewer construction, and administrative costs associated with storm water management. The storm water utility fees will also pay for practices to help improve water quality and reduce flooding. What is Storm Water? This is the water that runs off a property when it rains. It flows into streets, storm sewers, and ditches and is carried directly into the nearby lakes and/or rivers. Interaction of Storm Water Non-Natural Surfaces: When storm water flows across driveways, parking lots, lawns, streets and other surfaces, it can pick up pollutants along the way. This pollution comes from several sources, such as oil that leaks from vehicles, tire and brake lining wear, pesticide on lawns, leaves and other non-natural materials. 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 results in more water running off the land and can lead to flooding. Equivalent Residential Unit: An equivalent residential unit is equivalent to a single family residence. This is the basis for all other types of institutions for determining charges for impervious surfaces.