

Storm Water Management Program Fee



What is a storm water management program?

Federal water quality regulations require many urban areas and industries throughout the United States to implement a comprehensive storm water management program to improve storm water quality. As storm water runoff flows towards a collection system, it picks up pollutants like oil, metal, fertilizer, pesticide and trash, which flow untreated into our creeks, rivers and lakes. Waterloo is among the 43 cities in Iowa required to have a storm water management program. Waterloo's program is a joint effort between the Engineering, Waste Management and Street Departments.

What does the Storm Water Management Program do?

Waterloo's storm sewer system benefits all properties within the City by providing drainage and flood control. Our storm water management program involves the operation, maintenance and construction of the City's storm sewer system; storm sewer system studies and assessments; enforcement of storm water regulations, public education and outreach programs and the associated administrative costs, fees and employee training to meet the requirements of the City's annual Iowa Department of Natural Resources issued storm water discharge permit.

Why is this fee needed?

When the federal and state governments passed the clean water laws, no funding sources were provided to help cities meet these regulations. A combination of general obligation bonds, sewer fees, and road use tax funds are currently the main sources of funding for Waterloo's storm water management program. A storm water program management fee will provide the funds needed to operate this program and meet those governmental regulations.

Who will pay this fee?

Since all properties benefit from the City's storm sewer system, a user fee will be assessed to all residences, commercial, industrial, institutional (i.e., school, church, hospital) and government facilities within Waterloo.

How will this fee be collected?

A storm water user fee will be assessed monthly and included in the quarterly Waterloo Water Works bill.

What is the fee rate?

Residential properties will be charged a flat fee of \$2.75 per dwelling unit. A fee reduction will be available to those households that meet the City of Waterloo's low-income guidelines.

Commercial, industrial, institutional and government properties will be charged a flat fee of \$2.75 per parcel plus a fee of \$2.75 per 5,000 square feet of impervious area. Impervious area includes buildings, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots; basically any non-vegetated area.

Impervious area for non-residential properties was determined by analysis of the most recent aerial photography available to the City of Waterloo.

For more information, contact:

Wayne Castle, Associate Engineer
City of Waterloo Engineering Department
(319) 291-4312