

STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ADJUSTMENT

In October 2018, the Fishers City Council passed the 2019 City Budget which included a plan to increase stormwater utility rates to further invest in drainage projects, studies, and maintenance for the City's stormwater system as part of an unfunded Federal mandate for water quality.

WHY DOES THE CITY NEED TO INCREASE THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE?

Over the past 10 years, there has been no increase in the utility fee; however, costs have continued to increase for maintenance and necessary improvements to Fishers' stormwater system as the city has expanded and grown. A study was recently conducted by Policy Analytics to evaluate the City's stormwater utility fee. It was determined that the current rate will not support continued capital improvements to the stormwater system. An increased fee was recommended and a Stormwater Master Plan capital improvement list was developed to address current and ongoing stormwater issues in the community. The plan is comprised of projects totaling \$8.3 million, including drainage, maintenance, drainage and floodplain studies, detention, equipment, and water quality improvements.

HOW ARE MY RATES DETERMINED?

Rates will continue to be determined by the contribution that each property makes to the total amount of stormwater generated. This is calculated based on the average square footage of impervious surface area on the property. Based on a representative sample of more than 1,900 residential properties, it was determined that the average residential lot has a total of 3,318 square feet of impervious surfaces. This average square footage of impervious surface area is known as an equivalent residential unit (ERU). Non-residential property bills are calculated by dividing the actual site impervious area by the base ERU of 3,318 to arrive at the number of total charged ERUs. The rate adjustment is \$1.71 per ERU. This equates to an annual increase of \$20.52 for a residential home. Non-residential account annual increases will be variable depending on the amount of impervious surface, but the average yearly increase for commercial users is approximately \$400.

WHAT WILL THE ADDITIONAL RATE INCREASE GO TOWARDS?

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	\$5,785,216
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	\$150,000
STUDY	\$261,500
MAINTENANCE	\$58,000

Check out fishers.in.us/Stormwater for more information.

WHAT DOES THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE PAY FOR?

Major services include storm sewer improvements and maintenance, drainage and flood control projects and studies, street sweeping, water quality improvement projects, waterway cleanups, recycling days, National Flood Insurance Program Management, construction project plan review and inspection, private drainage and water quality issue matching grants, the free rain barrel program, and city-wide stormwater related environmental compliance.

