



Storm Water Utility Fee

What is a Storm Water Utility Fee?

A storm water utility is a service similar to the water and sanitary sewer utilities and is charged to existing landowners. Similar to a sanitary sewer utility, the fee is based on the amount each property uses. In the case of storm water, it is based on the amount of storm water runoff generated by each property. For example, a parking lot creates more storm water runoff than a grassy area the same size; therefore, the parking lot owner would pay a higher rate. In this way, the landowners in the City will pay for the management of storm water in proportion to the amount of storm water runoff they contribute to the system.



Why is a Storm Water Utility needed?

No matter where you live in Hastings, when it rains, storm water runs off of sidewalks, homes, driveways, and lawns and into a storm sewer system. The City's storm sewer system collects rain runoff in streets or ditches and then directs the water into storm sewer pipes, ponds, or drainageways. These systems eventually discharge the water to ponds, wetlands, and the Mississippi River. The system of streets, catch basins, and storm ponds have been built and need to be maintained to control storm water runoff to:

- Protect people
- Protect property
- Reduce insurance risks
- Improve property values
- Protect water quality

To control, collect, and treat storm water, there is a cost. The money generated by the utility will be used to conduct routine maintenance activities on the existing system to keep them functional and to maintain flood protection and water quality benefits. These activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Street sweeping
- Erosion and sedimentation control inspections
- Storm sewer system inspections and repairs
- Storm sewer pipe replacement
- Storm water pond and infiltration basin cleaning and maintenance
- Drainage ditch cleaning

In addition to financing maintenance and operation costs, a portion of the revenue generated by the storm water utility will be utilized by the City to meet the requirements of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MCPA) and other outside agencies related to storm water management. Under these requirements the City must implement a variety of programs, permits, and planning activities to address and promote storm water pollution prevention.

How much will I pay?

The quarterly fee billed to landowners will be based on the land use of the property. The land use provides an estimation of the amount of storm water runoff a property will generate based on the typical impervious and pervious area ratio for that specific land use. The estimated storm water runoff volume is proportional to the fee that will be charged. The adopted quarterly rates for 2010 are:



Existing Land Use	Residential Equivalency Factor (REF)	Quarterly Rate	Annual Rate
Low Density Residential	1.0	\$11.55 per lot	\$46.20 per lot
Medium Density Residential	1.1	\$6.35 per lot	\$25.41 per lot
High Density Residential	1.3	\$45.05 per acre	\$180.18 per acre
Manufactured Housing	1.0	\$34.65 per acre	\$138.60 per acre
Commercial/Office	1.6	\$55.44 per acre	\$221.76 per acre
Industrial	1.4	\$48.51 per acre	\$194.04 per acre
Public/Institutional	1.0	EXEMPT	EXEMPT
Golf Course	0.6	\$10.40 per acre	\$41.58 per acre
Open Space/Vacant	0.6	\$11.55 per lot	\$46.20 per lot
Agricultural	0.6	\$11.55 per lot	\$46.20 per lot



When will this fee begin?

The City of Hastings is implementing this fee in 2010 to assist the City in maintaining aging infrastructure, respond to increasing regulations, and to protect downstream water resources. The first installment of the quarterly fee has been included in your enclosed utility bill.
