

## What is a Storm Water Utility?

A storm water utility is a method of financing the administration, planning, implementation and maintenance of storm water management programs. The utility is funded by a service charge or utility fee. The utility does not replace existing funding sources - it complements them. A utility fee is typically charged against all developed parcels within a City, including tax-exempt properties, based on the premise of "contributors pay". The fee is based on how much stormwater runoff is contributed by a particular parcel. This consistent, dependable revenue source provides a dedicated fund to manage the drainage system and water quality improvements without increasing property taxes or assessments.

## Why is a Utility Needed?

West St. Paul requires additional funds to meet the following storm water management challenges:

- Storm sewer system upgrades
- Erosion and sediment control
- New federal regulations

These activities require a significant City expenditure that continues to increase. This expenditure requires appropriate financing.

## Why Must We Manage Storm Water?

Storm water facilities are built and maintained to control runoff. Runoff control:

- Protects people and property
- Reduces street flooding and provides for safe traffic flow
- Enhances the environment

## What is the Basis for Determining Fees?

All property has been assigned a certain number of residential equivalency factors (REFs). One REF represents the amount of runoff from a typical single family residential property.

All single family properties are assigned one REF. More intensively developed property, such as commercial or industrial, generates more runoff. These properties are assigned REFs based on the volume of runoff they generate. The approximate total number of REFs within the City, based on land use, are summarized below.

<u>LAND USE</u>	<u>TOTAL REFs</u>
Single Family Residential . . . . .	4,690
Other Residential . . . . .	1,550
Public, Semi-public . . . . .	740
Commercial . . . . .	2,000
<u>Industrial . . . . .</u>	<u>.620</u>
TOTAL	9,600

## What is My Share of the Costs?

Beginning February 1, 2006, the City is implementing a quarterly storm water utility charge of \$9.25 per quarter per REF. This will generate an estimated \$355,000 per year in revenue for the City's storm water fund.

The storm water utility fee will be included as an itemized charge on your sewer/water bill. A single family residence will be billed one REF per quarter. This will result in a quarterly charge of \$9.25, or an annual charge of \$37.00. Commercial properties are billed on a monthly basis so they will receive a charge of \$3.08 per month per REF. Property owners who don't currently receive a sewer and water bill will begin receiving a quarterly bill for the storm water utility fee.

## How Will My Money be Used?

The funds generated by this utility will be used on the following:

### Maintenance

- Street sweeping
- Cleaning of storm sewers and catch basins
- Ditch and pond cleaning
- General maintenance and repair of facilities

### System Improvements

- Upgrading of existing facilities to eliminate current flooding or drainage problems
- Replacement of deteriorated facilities
- Develop and implement a comprehensive drainage plan for future facilities, i.e., pipes, ponds, etc.

## Questions?

If you have additional questions concerning the creation of this storm water utility, you may contact:

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