



The Federal Clean Water Act requires Springfield to put new programs and regulations in place to improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Stormwater is rainwater or snow melt that runs off hard surfaces – like roofs, parking lots, sidewalks, etc. These hard surfaces are called "impervious areas". Urban areas like Springfield have high amounts of impervious area and as a result greater stormwater runoff than less developed areas. The programs that Springfield are required to put in place include public education and participation, regulation of construction site runoff, post-construction stormwater management on new development, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and pollution prevention in municipal operations. Starting in January, 2012, a stormwater fee for properties with impervious areas—including tax-exempt properties—will be assessed with monthly water/sewer bills and used to fund the stormwater programs.

Below are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more information, please contact [Sky Schelle](#), Springfield's Stormwater Coordinator, at 937-324-7739.

- Why am I charged this fee?

The fee pays for local programs to improve water quality and upgrades to the waste water treatment facilities. Springfield has to implement these programs due to mandates from the federal Clean Water Act.

- Does everyone in Springfield have to pay?

The fee is assessed to all properties that have houses, buildings, parking lots, private roads, or other hard surfaces. Tax-exempt properties, including those belonging to the City, are assessed the fee.

- How is the fee determined?

Your fee is based on the number of Equivalent Stormwater Units (ESUs) on your property. An ESU is equal to 1,898 square feet of impervious area. Your ESU was estimated from measurements taken from aerial photography. A monthly ESU rate, multiplied by the number of ESUs on your property, equals your fee. The monthly ESU rate is scheduled to go up in 2013.

Residential Property-Effective January 1-December 31, 2012		
Tier 1	1-999 square feet of impervious area	\$0.24/month
Tier 2	1,000-1,699 square feet of impervious area	\$0.45/month

Tier 3	1,700-2,099 square feet of impervious area	\$0.60/month
Tier 4	2,100-3,399 square feet of impervious area	\$0.78/month
Tier 5	Over 3,399 square feet of impervious area	\$1.20/month
Residential Property-Effective January 1, 2013-December 31, 2014		
Tier 1	1-999 square feet of impervious area	\$0.52/month
Tier 2	1,000-1,699 square feet of impervious area	\$0.97/month
Tier 3	1,700-2,099 square feet of impervious area	\$1.30/month
Tier 4	2,100-3,399 square feet of impervious area	\$1.69/month
Tier 5	Over 3,399 square feet of impervious area	\$2.60/month
Non-Residential Property		
Effective January 1-December 31, 2012		\$0.60 per ESU per month
Effective January 1, 2013-December 31,2014		\$1.30 per ESU per month

More information about the fee structure can be found at www.springfieldohio.gov in the Codified Ordinances Chapter 918.

- What about farms?

Agricultural land is not subject to the stormwater fee unless it has an NPDES permit.

- Is there an appeals process?

Yes, if you believe the fee was calculated incorrectly, contact Sky Schelle at 937-324-7739. There is an appeal form, but no processing fee until July 1, 2012. More information about the appeal process is in the Stormwater Credit Manual.

- I don't have a storm drain near me.
- I'm on septic and/or well water.
- Stormwater from my property doesn't drain to Springfield.

The fee is not just for services such as municipal storm sewers. The programs are meant to reduce pollutants in our waterways, which creates health and economic benefits that the whole community can share in. As such, all property owners within Springfield are assessed a fee.

- What can I do to reduce my fee?

Stormwater fee credits are available to property owners that can demonstrate a reduction in stormwater coming off their property or that install practices that protect water quality. Detailed information is in the Stormwater Credit Manual. You can also contact Sky Schelle at 937-324-7739.

- Why don't you just go after polluters and fine them?

Springfield's pollution problems do not come from a single source, but instead have diverse sources. We all contribute to stormwater runoff and the pollution it carries, and there are things homeowners and builders and developers can do to decrease its impact.

- How are you using the money?

The federal rules cover everything from public education to street sweeping. The majority of the money is being used to update the waste water system and eliminate the combined sewer overflows. Money will also be used for storm drain stencils and other educational items. The funds will also pay for staff to inspect stormwater practices, search and eliminate illegal discharges to the stormwater system, and help the development community reduce polluted stormwater.

- Will this really improve water quality?

Not overnight. The improvements of the waste water system will help a great deal, but it will be years until that project is complete. While that project is underway, we intend to do everything we can to improve water quality through the programs of the Stormwater Utility. We need homeowners and builders and developers to do their part to protect water quality.