



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 the City Engineer at 937-324-7312.

- **Why am I charged this fee?**

The fee pays for local programs to reduce the number of combined sewer overflows. Springfield has to implement these programs due to mandates from the federal Clean Water Act. Combined sewers were state of the art technology at the beginning of the 20th century and built by communities across the Midwest. Now, however, the untreated sewage and stormwater they discharge to waterways must be reduced.

- **Does everyone in Springfield have to pay?**

Yes, every parcel of land inside Springfield is assessed the fee. The only exceptions are lands owned by the City and NTPRD, public and railroad right of ways, and some agricultural land.

- **How is the fee determined?**

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

Residential Property-Effective January 1, 2016		
Tier 1	1-999 square feet of impervious area	\$0.90/month
Tier 2	1,000-1,699 square feet of impervious area	\$1.69/month
Tier 3	1,700-2,099 square feet of impervious area	\$2.25/month
Tier 4	2,100-3,399 square feet of impervious area	\$2.93/month
Tier 5	Over 3,399 square feet of impervious area	\$4.50/month
Non-Residential Property		
Effective January 1, 2016		\$2.25 per ESU per month

More information about the fee structure, including how property size impacts ESU and how ESUs are calculated for property with no hard surface, is in Chapter 918 of the Codified Ordinances.

- **What about farms?**

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

- **Is there an appeals process?**

Yes. More information about the appeal process is in the [Stormwater Credit Manual](#).

- **I don't have a storm drain near me and/or I'm on septic and/or well water.**

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 even if they don't have a storm drain in front of their property or do not receive city water or sewer service.

- **My runoff never reaches the city stormwater system. Do I have to pay?**

Exemptions from the stormwater fee are available if the property owner demonstrates that under no circumstances does runoff reach any part of the city stormwater system. The definition of the 'system' is very broad and includes streets, ditches, stream channels, culverts, etc. See the Stormwater Policy Manual for more details on how to apply for an exemption.

- **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](#).

- **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 the overflows it causes. We all have a responsibility to decrease the impact.

- **How are you using the money?**

The majority of the fees are dedicated to pay debt service on public projects that help reduce combined sewer overflows. For example, the City recently upgraded the capacity of the waste water treatment plant.

- **Will this really improve water quality?**

Yes, it already has! The improvements at the waste water treatment plan greatly reduced the amount of overflow going into Mad River, but now we need to focus on reducing overflows into Buck Creek, Mill Run, and Mill Creek. Completing all necessary projects will take decades.