

# FACT SHEET

## Stormwater Fees - What are they and will I have to pay one?

To improve water quality, stormwater runoff must be managed. However, while cleaning up our local streams will improve our quality of life, it can be very expensive. Community leaders are struggling with placing another fee on residents and businesses, but with the rising costs of meeting state and federal clean water regulations, municipalities have limited options. The more we develop for housing, shopping centers, and roads, the more stormwater runoff we create. We must take action to manage the runoff in a way that reduces the volume and velocity during storm events. Implementing a stormwater fee provides a sustainable source of funding to operate and manage the stormwater system, implement water quality projects, and comply with water quality regulations. Fees are assessed on all properties, including tax-exempt parcels.

### What Do Stormwater Fees Pay For?

#### Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance

- ▶ Clean inlets (remove accumulated trash, sediment, lawn clippings, and debris)
- ▶ Sweep streets
- ▶ Replace deteriorated corrugated metal pipes installed more than 30 years ago
- ▶ Repair damaged/cracked stormwater pipes (leaking pipes can lead to sinkholes and increase sanitary sewer treatment costs)

#### MS4 Permit Requirement Compliance

- ▶ Stormwater system mapping
- ▶ Educating the public, providing stormwater activities, inspecting regulated outfalls and stormwater BMPs, training municipal staff, and documenting public works activities

#### Pollutant Reduction Plan/Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation

- ▶ Stream restoration and stabilization
- ▶ Riparian buffers, vegetated swales, and rain gardens
- ▶ Detention basin retrofits, dry extended detention basins, and bioretention basins
- ▶ Stone infiltration trenches and pits

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ For a single-family residence, most stormwater fees are less than \$10 per month.
- ▶ Some municipalities offer credits for installing stormwater BMPs on your property.
- ▶ As of 2016, there were 1,583 stormwater utility fees in the United States.
- ▶ Schools, churches, hospitals, and other tax-exempt parcels must pay stormwater fees.

### WE CAN HELP!

- ▶ Jim Caldwell  
Municipal Team Lead  
(717) 431-3740  
jcaldwell@rettew.com
- ▶ Kara Kalupson, RLA, ASLA,  
CPMSM  
Senior MS4 Coordinator  
(717) 431-3706  
kara.kalupson@rettew.com



8- to 12-foot-high eroded channel

### HOW ARE STORMWATER FEES CALCULATED?

- ▶ Flat Fee - All property owners pay the same regardless of parcel size or amount of impervious coverage. *This method is simple to administer but is not equitable.*
- ▶ Tiered Fee - Property owners pay a fee based on parcel size, impervious area, or the amount of stormwater generated on the property.
- ▶ Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) - Establish the amount of impervious surface for the average single-family property and use this as the ERU. Calculate how many ERUs all non-single-family residential parcels contain. Multiply the base fee by the number of ERUs to establish the fee. *This is the most common method and the most equitable.*