

WHY DOES THE CITY CHARGE A STORMWATER FEE?

The City of Fort Wayne developed the stormwater fee to ensure proper control and treatment of stormwater in order to address unnecessary flooding, erosion and sedimentation caused by rain, to improve the overall quality of water and to comply with the federal environmental regulations that govern stormwater.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO PAY?

All properties within city limits having impervious surfaces such as asphalt, concrete, stone, building rooftops, etc., which generate stormwater runoff, are assessed a stormwater user fee. This includes all residential and non-residential customers, i.e. commercial, industrial, institutional, churches, schools, businesses, and governmental facilities.

HOW IS EACH PROPERTY CHARGED FOR STORMWATER?

Each residential property is charged a flat rate of one ERU (equivalent residential unit) of \$2.20 a month. Each non-residential property's stormwater bill is based on their total square footage of impervious surface divided by the base ERU of 2500 square feet, multiplied by \$2.20.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO PAY A STORMWATER FEE IF I DON'T HAVE A STORM SEWER?

Every property with impervious area produces increased stormwater runoff that Fort Wayne must manage. Your runoff, although small, may be joining with that from other properties to cause flooding downstream. Even where there are no storm sewers, water flows over land and discharges into the rivers and streams. The City's 600 miles of storm sewers help keep traffic moving on streets and highways, businesses and industries operating and lives and property safe by reducing neighborhood flooding.

RIVER CLEAN UP

Join the thousands of Fort Wayne residents who have participated in the River Clean Up! Your church, school or civic group can enter, or simply come alone to join with other involved citizens. This event takes place during the spring and summer months, so call the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality or the City's Solid Waste Department for more information on how you can keep litter out of the rivers!

Who To Contact

The Allen County Partnership
for Water Quality

3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Phone: 260-484-5848 ext. 111
Fax: 260-484-5080

City of Fort Wayne Solid Waste Department
260-427-1270

City Utilities Customer Service
260-427-1234

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Allen County
Partnership for Water
Quality

STORMWATER POLLUTION



A Reference Guide for Homeowners



*City of Fort Wayne • City of New Haven •
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WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT STORMWATER?

Every time it rains, water that is not absorbed by the ground runs off rooftops, lawns, driveways, and streets, picking up hazardous materials such as oil and antifreeze, fertilizers and pesticides, litter, pet waste and other pollutants. This stormwater is not treated by the water pollution control plant but is deposited directly into the rivers and streams.

Uncontrolled stormwater can affect your quality of life by negatively affecting the quality of water in the rivers and streams in your community. It can impact wildlife in the area and create an unhealthy habitat. Erosion of sediment into the water can block light from aquatic plants, fill the niches where fish lay eggs and clog fish gills. Polluted stormwater can affect the process by which our drinking water is filtered, causing the water filtration plant to do more extensive filtering and chlorinating.

WHAT CAN I DO?

There are several ways you can affect the quality & quantity of water that flows into the sewer system:

- ◆ **Responsible Lawn Care** When applying chemicals to your lawn, follow the manufacturer's directions to avoid over-applying; these chemicals can runoff into the sewer system and degrade our rivers and streams.
- ◆ **Don't Misuse Stormdrains** Remember that stormdrains are not trash cans. Household hazardous waste (HHW) such as motor oil, antifreeze and many cleaning agents should be disposed of properly at a HHW collection facility.



- ◆ **Support Local Efforts** Support the efforts of your local government to improve stormwater quality and quantity, and understand that there are a multitude of ways you can be involved in protecting your water quality.
- ◆ **Don't be a Litter Bug** Put trash in its place, or it could end up in our rivers and streams.
- ◆ **Pick Up Pet Waste** Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in your toilet or trash so that it doesn't wash into the stormdrains.
- ◆ **Conserve Water** Using less water on your lawn and garden means less chemical runoff into the stormdrains.
- ◆ **Reduce Impervious Surfaces** Surfaces such as roofs, driveways and concrete patios do not allow rainwater to filter back into the soil, forcing the water into stormdrains. Instead of concrete patios, asphalt driveways and paved paths, try wood decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways and mulched paths.

STORM DRAIN MARKING

Does your neighborhood association, school or civic group want to be involved in cleaning up your community's stormwater?

Become a part of the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality's *Storm Drain Marking Program*. By



affixing a special "No Dumping, Drains to River" emblem on storm sewers, residents and passersby become aware that what flows down those drains is not treated before reaching the river. The ACPWQ will provide all materials and instruction necessary to mark these drains, so call today to become part of a program that will serve for many years as an important reminder to keep garbage, chemicals and hazardous waste out of the sewer system.