

Why does the City of Andover need a Storm Water Utility?

As land becomes developed, there are few places for storm water to seep naturally into the ground. Hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots and streets all contribute to storm water runoff which makes its way through a storm drain system of ditches, ponds and storm sewer into wetlands, lakes and rivers. As runoff increases so does the cost to manage it, both in water quantity and quality.

Federal water quality regulations mandate that the City of Andover implement and enforce strict water quality management practices to protect the City's water resources. To meet these regulations, the City establish a Storm Water Utility in 2003. The Utility provides a dedicated source of revenue to monitor, manage, maintain and improve the City's water resources and storm water collection systems.

Programs funded by the utility include:

- Storm sewer system inspection, maintenance and reconstruction
- Pond sedimentation maintenance
- Correction of localized drainage problems
- Ditch and culvert maintenance and upgrades
- Street sweeping
- Removal of accumulated sediment from water quantity/quality basins and catch basins
- Federally mandated surface water best management practices and ordinance implementation and enforcement

What is a Storm Water Utility?

A Storm Water Utility is similar to a water, gas or electric utility. The fees you pay are based on what you use. In the case of a Storm Water Utility, what you use (create) is the amount of storm water runoff that leaves your property and enters the public Storm Water System. A Storm Water Utility is an effective method used by cities to pay for monitoring, maintenance and improvements to the storm water system.

Who is billed?

All developed property owners in the City of Andover receive a Storm Water Utility bill. The City has estimated the amount of storm water leaving your property contributing to the City's overall storm water system. The bill you receive is based on the amount of runoff. The fee is NOT based on property value. Residential properties pay a flat rate. Large properties such as businesses, industries, churches and schools with large amounts of impervious surface, such as buildings, parking lots and driveways pay higher fees than smaller properties with less impervious surface. The more runoff, the greater the impact on the City storm water system and therefore, the greater the charge.

Factors affecting your bill are as follows:

- Amount of land you own
- Type of property
- Impervious surface

All properties, including public property, parks, homes, farms, businesses, industries, and tax exempt properties, such as churches and schools will pay a fee. Undeveloped open space will not be

How does the Utility benefit the community?

Having a separate fund for storm water system monitoring, maintenance and improvements will allow the City of Andover to focus more thoroughly on the following storm water related issues:

- Storm water quality monitoring
- Storm sewer and inlet maintenance
- Maintenance of water quantity/quality basins
- Erosion and sediment control
- Wetland protection
- Water quality improvement