

# Storm Water Management Program



## **What is a Storm Water Management Program?**

Federal water quality regulations require many urban areas and industries throughout the United States to implement a comprehensive storm water management program to improve storm water quality. As storm water runoff flows toward a collection system, it picks up pollutants like oil, metal, fertilizer, pesticides and trash, and then deposited, untreated, into our river, creeks and lakes. Waterloo is among the 44 cities and 3 universities in Iowa required to have a storm water management program. Waterloo's storm water management program began in 2004 and is a joint effort between the Engineering, Waste Management and Street Departments.

## **What does the Storm Water Management Program do?**

Waterloo's storm sewer system benefits all properties within the City by providing drainage and flood control. Our storm water management program involves the operation, maintenance and construction of the City's storm sewer system, enforcement of storm water regulations, public education and outreach programs, storm sewer system studies and assessments, associated administrative costs, fees, and employee training to meet the requirements of the City's annual Iowa Department of Natural Resources issued storm water discharge permit.

## **Why is the Storm Water Fee needed?**

When the federal and state governments passed the clean water laws, no funding sources were provided to help cities meet these regulations. Prior to the implementation of the fee, a combination of general obligation bonds, sewer fees, and road use tax funds were the main sources of funding for Waterloo's storm water management program. The current Storm Water Fee is used to cover the costs of the City's required Storm Water Management Program. Monies raised from the fee increase will be used for design and construction of various storm water system improvements, such as drainage way improvements and regional detention basins.

## **Who pays this Storm Water Fee?**

Since all properties benefit from the City's storm water drainage system, the fee is assessed to all residential, commercial, industrial, institutional (i.e. schools, churches, hospitals) and governmental facilities within Waterloo (see section 8-4-1 of the Waterloo city code of ordinances for definition of storm water drainage system).

## **How is this Storm Water Fee collected?**

The storm water fee is assessed monthly and included in the quarterly Waterloo Water Works bill.

## **What are the Storm Water Fee rates?**

Our current fee is \$4.50 per dwelling unit. A fee reduction will be available to those households that meet the City of Waterloo's low-income guidelines.

Commercial, industrial, institutional and governmental properties will be charged a base fee of \$4.50 plus a fee of \$4.50 per 5,000 square feet of impervious area. Impervious area includes buildings, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots; basically any non-vegetated area. The impervious areas for non-residential properties were determined by analysis of the most recent aerial photography available to the City of Waterloo.

On July 1, 2022, the Storm Water Fee will be increased \$0.25. Another \$0.25 increase will take place on July 1, 2023. The need for future Storm Water Fee increases will be reviewed in 2023.

## **For more information, contact:**

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