



stormwater

Hermantown's city-wide plan

Stormwater impacts all of us.

The City is obligated to regulate stormwater runoff. When rain and snow can't naturally soak into the ground because of roads, roofs, and more, the rate of flow and the water quality is changed. In turn, this can negatively impact streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Without any development, rain and snow would either soak in or run off to streams, lakes, and wetlands naturally. But with any development, the City must design and maintain systems that help water flow. These include ditches, culverts, storm drains, catch basins, ponds and bridges. All the roads we drive on prevent water from naturally flowing, so all of our culverts, ditches, and bridges help with water flow and assist in flood prevention.

Stormwater systems support all of us.

Stormwater Utility Fee Qs & As

Q: I'm not on the city sewer or water lines, why do I have to pay a stormwater utility fee?

A: Stormwater impacts all of Hermantown, so every citizen has a responsibility to help with the costs, which come from every road, roof, driveway, and development in our city. Stormwater can cause flooding, water quantity and quality issues, and can carry pollutants. All rooftops and roads can create stormwater runoff and pollution.

Q: How much is the bill and how often will I receive it?

A: Current residential water and sewer customers pay \$7 per month, but non-sewer residential customers will only be billed \$42 every six months in July and January.

Q: Why are we getting this bill now?

A: Stormwater has been an unfunded utility since our city was founded. A combination of the growth we've experienced and the rising costs of managing this program have made this fee a necessity to maintain quality stormwater program.

Q: What value does this fee have for me?

A: Great question, big answer! Most importantly this fee covers the maintenance necessary to keep our culverts, ditches, and stormwater systems functioning. It also funds upcoming projects such as the culverts being replaced on Okerstrom Road, and upcoming bridge work on Lindahl Road and Swan Lake Road. This fee supports all future stormwater projects across Hermantown as well.

Q: Is this fee going to be back-dated to pay for the unfunded years?

A: No. The City is only taking a forward-looking approach to stormwater management. While there has been decades of unfunded stormwater utility in Hermantown, the plans for ongoing management at this point are able to be funded with a fee that begins now and doesn't reach back in time.

Q: What will the money collected from this fee be used for?

A: The revenues generated by this fee will be used to fund all stormwater-related services, which include maintenance, repairs, and replacement of public culverts, ditches, and more, as well as all future stormwater needs. All of this work is done to protect personal and public property in Hermantown, as well as provide for a cleaner environment and reduce the risk to public health and safety.

Our City's Stormwater Responsibility

Hermantown is responsible for managing all aspects of stormwater within our jurisdiction. The City operates and maintains drainage facilities that are located within the public right-of-way.

Historically, the City has performed stormwater maintenance, including cleaning, repair, and replacement of stormwater infrastructure using the overall general fund. Rising costs paired with the Federal Government's requirements for cities the size of Hermantown to implement programs and services to improve water quality, no longer make it possible to maintain our current stormwater infrastructure or make improvements without the added funding of this fee.

Further questions about stormwater or billing?

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