



STORMWATER UTILITY BILLING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How did this new utility service come into existence?**

The City of Bristol has always provided stormwater utility services to residents and businesses located within the City limits. Prior to July 1, 2014, this service was primarily funded through property tax revenue. In order to keep the 2014 property tax rate from increasing, the expenses associated with maintaining the stormwater system throughout the City will now be funded through a fee-based structure assessed on your monthly utility bill.

- **What is stormwater runoff, and how does it affect me?**

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows off from any impervious material on a piece of property. Examples of impervious materials are any type of housing, driveways, parking lots, streets, hard packed dirt, and/or any other type of material that prevents rainwater from being absorbed directly into soil. Due to the nature of the surface, rainwater instead is diverted into the stormwater system of ditches, culverts, catch basins, and storm sewers.

One issue that could affect citizens and businesses is a potential for localized flooding due to the increased urbanization that has occurred in recent years. This increased urbanization has led to additional impervious structures that can increase the rate of rainwater runoff to a point where localized flooding is possible.

In addition, this rainwater can carry many pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, grass clippings, pet wastes, and other materials that must be treated before being reentered into the general water supply. It is crucial that the City acts proactively to prevent as much contaminated water from entering the stormwater system as possible.

The fees collected will be used to fund improvements to existing stormwater system infrastructure, build new stormwater system infrastructure, and provide for street cleaning services to aid in prevention of localized flooding and improvement of water quality for City citizens and businesses.

- **How did the City of Bristol develop its Stormwater Utility program?**

Staff of the Public Works Department evaluated the current stormwater system in place to determine improvements and any additional infrastructure needed to adequately manage the runoff associated with stormwater within the next 10 years. Staff of the Finance Department analyzed the estimated costs within a multiple year financial model and determined it would not be feasible to adequately maintain the stormwater system without a substantial increase in the property tax rate.

The City then contracted with an independent organization specializing in the research and implementation of stormwater utilities nationwide to analyze data relating to the imperviousness of property within the City. Based on this information, a fee structure was developed based on property classification.



STORMWATER RATES

Residential	\$ 2.00
0-300 sq. ft.	\$ 0.00
300-3,000 sq. ft.	\$ 2.00
3,000-6,000 sq. ft.	\$ 4.00
6,000-9,000 sq. ft.	\$ 6.00
9,000-15,000 sq. ft.	\$ 10.00
15,000-21,000 sq. ft.	\$ 14.00
21,000-30,000 sq. ft.	\$ 20.00
30,000-42,000 sq. ft.	\$ 28.00
42,000-57,000 sq. ft.	\$ 38.00
57,000-75,000 sq. ft.	\$ 50.00
75,000-99,000 sq. ft.	\$ 66.00
99,000-125,000 sq. ft.	\$ 70.00
Over 125,000 sq. ft.	\$ 80.00

CONTACT INFORMATION

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STORMWATER UTILITY BILLING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How will the Stormwater Utility fee be charged?**

The Stormwater Utility fee will be charged on a monthly utility bill. If you are a resident or business within the City, you most likely will already have a utility bill account. The additional Stormwater Utility fee will be added to your current bill. If you do not have water, sewer, or solid waste service and live within the City limits, you will receive a new monthly bill with Stormwater Utility fees only. A new service code designated with the abbreviation "ST" will indicate you are being charged for Stormwater Utility services.

- **How did the City determine the amount to be charged on my utility bill?**

In coordination with an engineering consultancy firm, the City strived to develop a rate structure that was equitable and fair to residents and businesses alike. Properties that are determined to be single-family residential property will be charged \$2.00 per month, while commercial, industrial, and other properties determined to be non-single-family residential property will be charged on a tiered rate schedule based on total imperviousness of the property.

The vast majority of the utility accounts and properties within the City will be charged at the single-family residential rate of \$2.00 per month. While not all inclusive, the following are some examples of developed properties that will be included in the single-family residential property rate: single family homes; single family homes converted into duplexes, triplexes, etc; mobile homes; townhomes, apartments, and condominiums provided individual dwelling units do not have other dwelling units located above or below.

Non-single-family residential property includes developed property that does not fall into the above classification. Properties falling under this classification will be charged on an ascending rate schedule based on total imperviousness of the property. While not all inclusive, the following are some examples of developed properties that will be included in the non-single-family residential property rate: commercial property; industrial property; public buildings; storage buildings and areas with impervious surface area; parking lots; parks; multi-level townhomes, apartments, and condominiums.

- **Are other municipalities requiring citizens and businesses to pay a Stormwater Utility Fee?**

Yes, there are many other local municipalities collecting fees to provide for upgrades of existing infrastructure and development of new infrastructure for stormwater systems. The cities of Kingsport and Johnson City are the closest examples of municipalities operating a Stormwater Utility for these very reasons. Both have been charging for Stormwater Utility services for several years. Outside the Tri-Cities region, cities such as Morristown, Murfreesboro, Franklin, Chattanooga, Spring Hill, and Nashville use a Stormwater Utility to provide for enhanced services relating to flood mitigation and water pollution control.

- **When will the fee take effect?**

The fee will take effect on utility billings beginning July 1, 2014.

- **How can I learn more about the Stormwater Utility Fee?**

You can find a more detailed description of the Stormwater Utility Fee by downloading Resolution 14-48 (<http://bristoltn.org/DocumentCenter/View/2790>), Ordinance 14-8 (<http://bristoltn.org/DocumentCenter/View/2793>) or by contacting the Department of Public Works at (423) 989-5566.

To learn more about what the City of Bristol is doing and what you can do to protect your water, please go to <http://bristoltn.org/134/Stormwater-Information>.

