



Don Schonhardt, Mayor

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# CITY OF HILLIARD

## STORM WATER UTILITY FACTS

### BACKGROUND

#### **ORDINANCE No. 09-63, Passed 12/21/2009, Effective 1/21/2010**

CREATING A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY; ESTABLISHING A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE TO BE PAID BY USERS BASED ON AN EQUIVALENT RESIDENTIAL UNIT (ERU); INCLUDING THE MONTHLY ERU SERVICE CHARGE IN CHAPTER 190 OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES; ADOPTING SECTION 951 OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CODE"; AND CREATING A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT AND USE OF ALL SERVICE CHARGES.

#### **Amended by:**

#### **ORDINANCE 10-14, Passed 3/22/2010, Effective 3/22/2010**

AMENDING CHAPTER 951 "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CODE" OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

#### **Amended by:**

#### **ORDINANCE 13-11, Passed 4/22/2013, Effective 5/22/2013**

Purpose was to increase storm water utility ERU charge over the next five years from \$1.95 per ERU to \$3.00 per ERU in 2017:

Year	Rate	effective date
2013	\$2.15/ERU	July 1, 2013
2014	\$2.35/ERU	January 1, 2014
2015	\$2.55/ERU	January 1, 2015
2016	\$2.75/ERU	January 1, 2016
2017	\$3.00/ERU	January 1, 2017

### WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT DRAINAGE AROUND MY PROPERTY AND BEYOND?

The first step a resident can take is to understand the drainage pattern established for each individual lot and its function as part of the overall storm water runoff plan for the subdivision. The grading plan for your home site was established by professional engineers in order to provide drainage away from the house and other buildings. Therefore, through a simple visual assessment, residents can determine if the rainwater runoff drains away from the home and ultimately off of the lot.

Gutters should be kept clean and well-aligned to catch rain water run-off from the roof. Make sure seams are well-caulked and do not drip water. Downspouts should be unblocked and positioned to direct water away from the house foundation. A good time to check the system is during a heavy shower. Problems will present themselves. In many cases, wet basements and crawl spaces are caused by roof drains not being properly directed away from the house.

Once the rainwater falls and drains from each individual lot, it enters some type of storm water collection and distribution system. This can include swales and ditches, catch basins and pipes, detention and retention ponds, ravines and streams, etc. Therefore, it is very important that awareness of the existing drainage patterns is established and changes to these patterns (landscaping, sheds, fences, etc.) must maintain proper positive drainage and be approved by the City. It is very common for new homeowners to fill in the swales (shallow "valleys" between houses, usually on property lines) with topsoil to "level off" their yards and make it easier to mow. They often do not realize these swales are a critical part of their yard's drainage design. If your yard swale design has been altered, it is a good idea to restore your swales to assist in proper yard drainage.

Streams and ravines are also a very critical part of storm water drainage systems. They typically convey large volumes of water for large drainage areas. Therefore, it is very important that they are allowed to flow unrestricted. A resident can be of assistance to the City by reporting any blockages to the stream flow upon observation of a

potential problem. Streams can suffer severe bank erosion at a bend with the result that a home or other structure is in danger of being undermined and potentially destroyed. If the stream is located on private property and has no storm water easement, then the property owner is responsible to correct the problem. An engineer should be contacted to assess the condition of the endangered building and recommend possible remedies to the situation. The City of Hilliard is here to help you with storm water issues. We hope this information will help answer some of your questions. Please feel free to call the Service Department at (614) 876-7361 ext. 790 if you need further information.

### **WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY?**

A storm water utility is the same idea as the existing water and sanitary sewer utilities. It is a way of collecting proprietary funds, which can only be spent to maintain the infrastructure for which they were collected. Simply stated, the City is not permitted to spend the money received from the storm water utility on anything unrelated to storm water Infrastructure and improved drainage.

### **WHY DO WE NEED A STORMWATER UTILITY?**

To stay effective, storm water infrastructure needs maintained and updated the same as our roads, water lines and sanitary sewer lines. It is the City's desire to develop a strong storm water program that will aid in protecting properties and creating a safe, healthy environment for the residents of Hilliard. Additionally, state and federal regulations now require a more stringent comprehensive approach to storm water management. The storm water utility will enable the City to meet these requirements on storm water quality and to meet the City's federally mandated but unfunded responsibilities to manage the storm water drainage system more closely, study the contents of the storm water, seek out and eliminate illicit connections and illegal dumping, and educate the public on flood plain and storm water issues. For Hilliard to be successful in meeting storm water management demands, a funding source was needed, which will direct funds specifically to this cause.

### **How IS AN ERU CALCULATED?**

First, the impervious area of several Hilliard homes was calculated and the average area of impervious surface per residential property was found to be 2,000 square feet. Therefore, 2,000 square feet represents the Impervious area of one ERU. Next, the actual Impervious square footage was measured on each non-residential property. Each non-residential property's total square footage was then divided by 2,000, square feet (one ERU) to determine how many ERU's for which each non-residential property was generating storm runoff. All ERU's were added together (residential and non-residential) and the grand total of ERU's in the City of Hilliard approximately 23,000. The next step in the process required that City officials produce a five-year projection of storm water projects, personnel and equipment needed to maintain and improve Hilliard's drainage and comply with state and federal requirements. The annual revenue needed was divided by the total number of ERU's to determine the quarterly storm water utility charge per ERU.

### **WHAT WILL I PAY?**

Currently (July 1, 2013) the monthly charge for one ERU is \$2.15 per month per ERU (\$25.80 annually). Commercial customers will pay the current ERU rate per month times the number of ERU's related to their property. Effective January 1, 2014 the ERU rate increases to \$2.35 per month per ERU (\$28.20)

### **CREDIT PROGRAMS:**

Commercial customers may receive a credit for efforts to minimize the Impact their property has on the City's storm water system. A set of rules and regulations as required have been promulgated and are available at the Public Service Department or online at the city website. <http://hilliardohio.gov/> .

### **WHAT WILL THE STORMWATER UTILITY DO FOR THE RESIDENTS OF HILLIARD?**

Storm Water Infrastructure will receive improved routine maintenance, which will allow the storm water system to convey runoff as effectively as possible. The City will have the resources needed to take a more proactive approach toward preventing storm water emergencies by making necessary repairs before there is a failure in the system. This can include street sweeping and leaf pickup programs, keeping pipes clean, inlets open, outlets unlogged, streams and ditches unobstructed, etc. An initial five-year capital improvement plan for upgrading existing systems and installing new systems where needed has been developed, and more projects will likely be identified in the future. Maintenance of these systems will be an ongoing need.

### **WHERE DO I CALL WITH QUESTIONS?**

Call the Hilliard Service Department at (614) 876-7361 ext 790 or on the web at <http://hilliardohio.gov/> . Under Resources click on Service Request Center or go this directly using the following link. <http://hilliardohio.gov/resources/request.aspx> .