

3 WHY IS THIS PROGRAM NECESSARY?



To correct water-quality problems.

Stormwater pollution occurs when rain events wash oil, salt, soil, fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste and other pollutants into the Black River and Lake Erie.

To meet federal unfunded regulations.

Since 2003 the City of Elyria has been required to comply with the unfunded federal mandate known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water quality regulations, which are part of the 1972 Clean Water Act. These regulations require the City of Elyria to reduce pollutants and stormwater runoff. In addition, the city has been audited several times by Ohio EPA, with violation findings after each audit.



The City of Elyria
131 Court Street
Elyria, OH 44035

Elyria
STORMWATER
Utility Program

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1 ELYRIANS: READ ABOUT THE NEW STORMWATER FEES

AND WHY THEY'RE GOOD FOR US ALL.



You may have heard:

Beginning April 2016 you'll be receiving new quarterly green and white Elyria stormwater utility bills. New fees are *never* popular. But they're usually necessary. And in our case, they're essential. Simply put, the City of Elyria needs funding to address two important issues:

- Comply with a federal unfunded mandate known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water quality regulations, which are part of the 1972 Clean Water Act. The focus: improve water quality in the Black River and Lake Erie.
- Fund capital improvements needed to reduce flooding problems within the city.



No government funds are available.

We need *you* – residential homeowners and non-residential property owners – to help us make things right.

2 HOW MUCH WILL YOU HAVE TO PAY?

Residential homeowners will pay a fee (not a tax) of \$7.95 *per quarter* (or \$31.80 per year). It was determined through a detailed study that the average single-family and two-family piece of property within the city has 2,700 square feet of impervious area. ("Impervious" means those hard surfaces on the property that cannot absorb stormwater, such as roofs, asphalt, concrete, gravel lots, etc.) This value of "2,700 square feet" is known as one (1) Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Other cities have used the ERU approach with great success. Here in Elyria, the monthly ERU rate is a *very* competitive \$2.65 per month.

However, if you own a non-residential property, you will pay a quarterly fee based on how much impervious (non-absorbing) property area you actually own. You are a *non-residential property owner* if you own one or more businesses, industries, churches, schools, government buildings, or residential properties that contain three or more units.

For you, we measured the total square footage of impervious area for your property or properties. We then divided that area by 2,700 square feet (one ERU), rounded the result to a whole number, multiplied that number by the monthly ERU rate of \$2.65, then multiplied that dollar amount by three (as in "three months") to get the *quarterly* rate shown on your bill.

Here's an example: Joe's Garage had 27,000 square feet of measured impervious area. So we divided that impervious area measurement by 2,700 square feet ($27,000 \div 2,700$), which resulted in 10 ERUs. We then multiplied the 10 ERUs by the monthly ERU rate of \$2.65 ($10 \text{ ERUs} \times \$2.65 = \26.50), which gave us Joe's *monthly* fee. We then multiplied the monthly fee of \$26.50 by three (as in "three months") to arrive at Joe's *quarterly* fee of \$79.50. This is the "Current Amount Due" on all of Joe's quarterly bills.

4 WHAT WILL THE CITY DO WITH THE MONEY?

A CLEAR plan for CLEAN water.

A large portion of the revenue generated by the stormwater fees will be used to comply with water-quality regulations in the following ways:

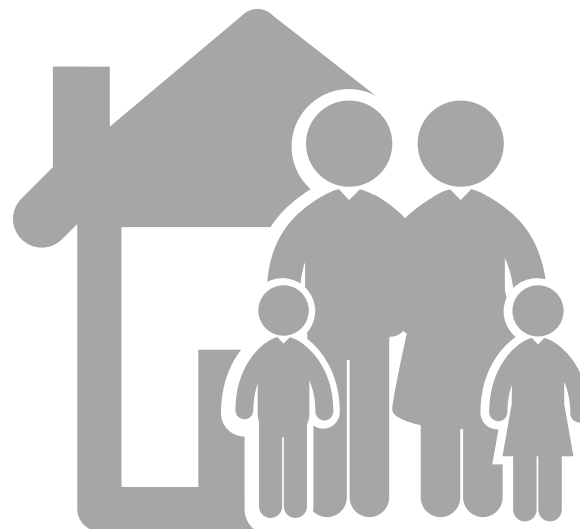
- Monitor water quality of local waterways
- Identify/eliminate improper connections
- Map the stormwater system
- Inspect construction sites and enforce related ordinances
- Manage stormwater runoff throughout the system
- Sewer system cleaning and maintenance

Funds will also be used to support the funding of stormwater projects throughout the city, including:

- Installing a new relief sewer on the east side of the city
- Attending to citywide flooding and drainage problems

5 DEFINITION: UNFUNDED MANDATE

Neither the U.S. EPA nor Ohio EPA has funds available to pay for this mandate, hence the phrase “unfunded mandate.” And, until recently, the City of Elyria did not have a dedicated funding source for stormwater management (as it does for other city services). The fees you pay will help us make things right. Without a dedicated funding source to address these challenges, Elyria would not be able to comply with the mandate, which could result in large fines to the city.



6 IMPORTANT BILLING INFORMATION



Paying your bill.

The stormwater fees will be mailed to property owners beginning in April 2016 on a quarterly basis. Property owners can pay the minimum amount due or the total annual fee.

- **Online** at www.cityofelyria.org/utilities
- **By Mail.** Please include remittance stub, plus check or money order payable to Elyria Public Utilities. Indicate account number on check for proper credit. Mail payment to:
Elyria Public Utilities
P.O. Box 4018
Elyria, OH 44036-4018
- **In Person.** Cash, check, money order, Visa, or MasterCard.
Elyria Public Utilities
131 Court Street, Suite 102, First Floor.
Or at any Discount Drug Mart store.
- **Automated Payment Deduction.** Payments can be directly withdrawn from any checking or savings account. Contact Public Utilities at 440.326.1570. Or go online for an application form. Offered at no additional cost to homeowners and property owners.



Verifying billing information.

Stormwater utility bills will be sent to the property owner on record with the Lorain County Auditor's Office. Verify that the information on your bill is correct.

7 WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?



Billing questions can be emailed to the Elyria Engineering Department at stormwater@cityofelyria.org. Or please call the Message Line at 440.326.1429.



If you **(1)** are experiencing flooding, **(2)** have a different stormwater problem, or **(3)** have additional questions about the new stormwater utility program, call the **Stormwater Message Line** at **440.326.1429**. Or visit the new **Elyria stormwater webpage** at www.elyriastormwater.com.



Elyria

STORMWATER Utility Program

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