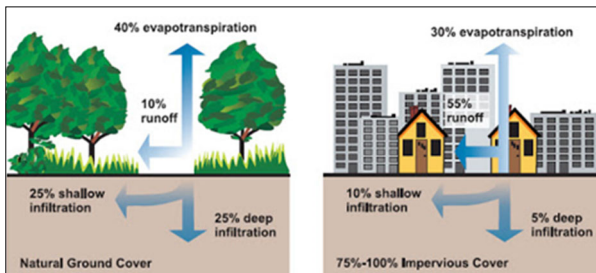


City of Martinsburg Stormwater Utility

Stormwater Utility

- A fully funded utility is required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under the Clean Water Act.
- The City of Martinsburg is required to address the amount and type of pollution carried by stormwater runoff that is deposited into the local creeks and streams.
- This fee includes service charges for the operation, maintenance, improvement of, and necessary additions to the stormwater system.
- The stormwater utility fee is based on the amount of square feet of impervious surface you own.
- All owners of real property in the City shall pay the monthly stormwater utility fee based on the amount of Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) you have.

What is Impervious Surface?



- Impervious surface is any surface which significantly prevents stormwater from soaking into the soil. Some examples are roofs, parking lots, and cement patios.

Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)

- The average impervious surface of a residential property within the City was used as the basis for determining the size of an ERU.

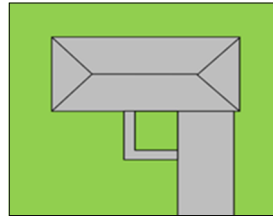
$$1 \text{ ERU} = 2,280 \text{ square feet} = \$12$$

- The City established that we will bill by half of an ERU. This allows smaller properties to have a more practical billing statement.

$$1/2 \text{ ERU} = 1,140 \text{ square feet} = \$6$$

- No bill shall be less than 1/2 ERU.

Examples of ERU



Residential Property

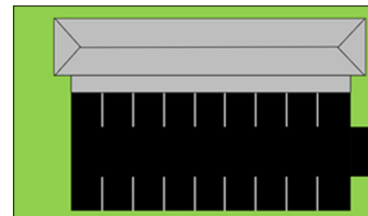
Example:

- Rooftop
- Driveway
- Sidewalk

$$1 \text{ ERU} = \$12.00 \text{ per month}$$

Small Commercial Property Example:

- Rooftop
- Sidewalk
- Parking lot



$$10 \text{ ERU} = \$120.00 \text{ per month}$$

Clean water starts with YOU!

Billing

- The stormwater utility fee is billed quarterly.
- The utility fee can be paid in person at City Hall or online at:
<https://www.cityofmartinsburg.org/residents/online-bill-payment>



- City council may, from time to time, by ordinance, change the water quality service fees or charges.

Termination

- The Martinsburg Stormwater Utility shall assess interest and penalties upon unpaid and past due water quality service fees and service charges, and act as it deems appropriate to enforce collection of unpaid water quality service fees and water quality charges.
- Unpaid water quality service fees and water quality charges shall constitute just cause for disconnection of public water service to the non-paying property per WV Code, §16-13-16.m.

City of Martinsburg Stormwater Utility

FAQs

- Why do we need to spend more for stormwater?
Although the City has done a good job providing stormwater services on a very limited budget, the backlog of capital improvements has grown, and additional maintenance activities are required. Local, state, and federal laws also *require* municipalities, such as ours, to address the environmental impacts of stormwater pollution, but do not provide the funds to do it.



- Where does your money go?
The stormwater fund will allow us to build better drainage projects to control water during storms, create more stormwater practices to filter water, and keep our waterways free of pollutants. The EPA and WVDEP *require* us as a city to do our part to keep our national waterways clean. (We don't get a pass on this.)
- What happens if the City does nothing or refuses to comply with the EPA and DEP permit regulations?
If the City chose not to comply with Federal and State regulations, the penalties would be stiff. It would be \$50,000 each day for the federal penalties and \$25,000 each day with the state penalties for a whopping \$75,000 *per day*. That is simply not workable, and they would eventually compel us through the court system to take care of our waterways.

More FAQs

- Why should I pay for rain falling on my property?
Property owners are being charged a stormwater utility fee for the cost and privilege of discharging stormwater into the public stormwater system which the City is obligated under law to maintain. With a stormwater utility fee, property owners are charged a fee for runoff discharged from their property to the City's local water ways, not by the amount of rain falling onto your property.
- Why are churches, non-profits, schools, and other governmental entities being billed?
Churches, non-profits, schools, and other governmental entities impact stormwater utility systems just like commercial and industrial sites. All buildings contain impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces on the parcels of churches, non-profits, schools, and other governmental entities also place a demand on the stormwater system. Stormwater runoff generated by any property must be controlled and conveyed once it leaves the property so that it does not create problems for others. Both the quantity and the quality of the stormwater affects the entire system for the City of Martinsburg. Having a separate fee for stormwater runoff is comparable to paying separate bills for water, sewer, garbage pickup, and fire protection.
- I am renting an apartment or house. Do I have to pay this fee?
Property owners are obligated to pay stormwater utility fees. It will be up to the individual property owner and the renter to decide how to handle the assessed fee.

More FAQs

- I have a detention pond on my property. Will the utility be responsible for the maintenance of the pond?
No. The maintenance of a retention or detention pond remains the responsibility of the property owner.
- If I live on top of a hill and I do not have drainage problems, why would I have to pay?
I live on the edge of the City, and water drains away from streets and public drainage system, why do I have to pay?
I live at the bottom of a hill, why do I have to pay?
Providing for and addressing stormwater is a regulated and public service provided by the City of Martinsburg. All buildings contain impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces on your property inevitably place a demand on the stormwater system. Stormwater runoff generated by any property must be controlled and conveyed once it leaves the property so that it does not create problems for others. Both the quantity of stormwater and the quality of stormwater impacts the entire stormwater system for the City. All property owners receive indirect benefits from a properly maintained and operated stormwater management system for the entire City.



**For further information, please contact
Stormwater Management at (304)263-7187**



**CITY OF
MARTINSBURG**
WEST VIRGINIA
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT