

Stormwater Runoff



Courtesy NCDENR

Appeal Process

Eligibility

Any City of Ottawa customer/property owner may request an appeal or correction of the fee by:

- Submitting the request in writing to the Director of Finance within 30 days after the issue date of the contested bill.
- Grounds for appeal/correction include:
 - Incorrect classification of the property for purposes of determining the fee; and
 - Errors in the identification of the property subject to the fee
- The Director of Finance shall make a determination within 30 days after receipt of the property owner's completed written request.

Questions?



PO Box 60 - Ottawa, KS - 66067

www.ottawaks.gov

Public Works Department

Phone: 785.229.3630

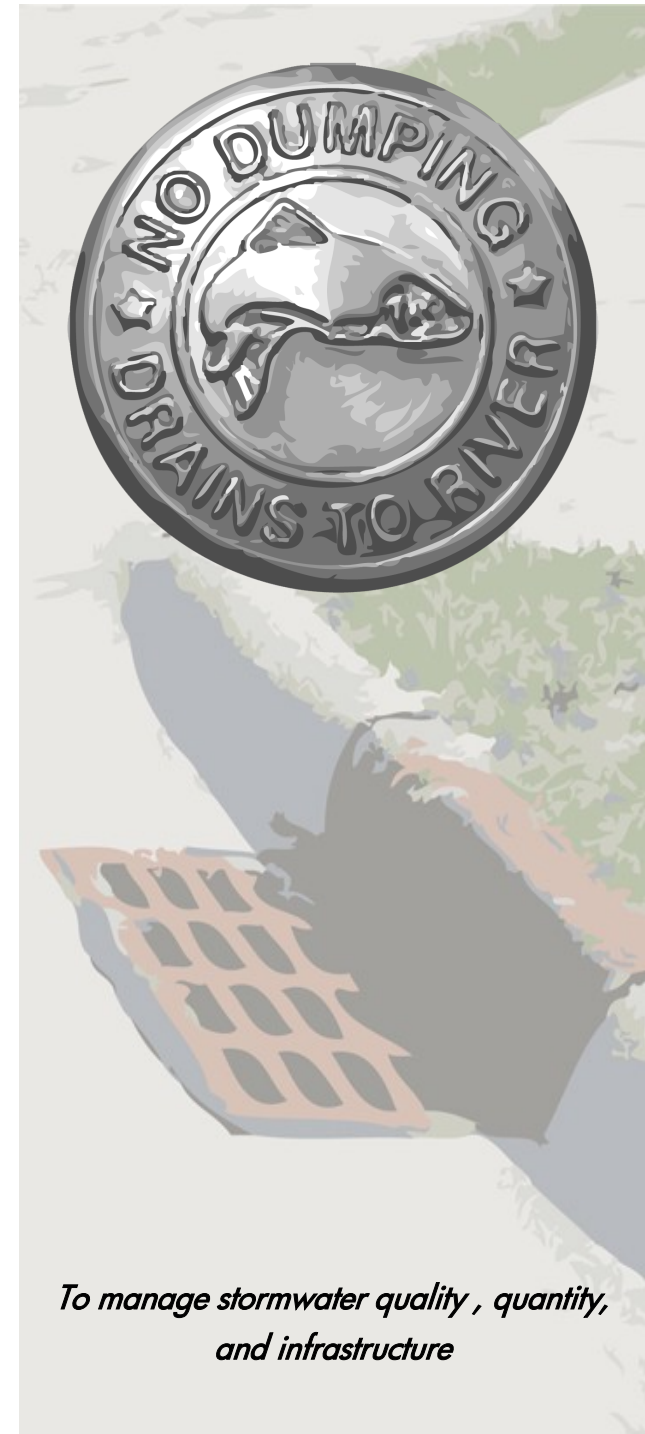
Fax: 785.229.3639

Utility Billing

Phone: 785.229.3600

Hours: 8am - 5pm, Mon - Fri

Stormwater Utility Information



Why Must We Manage Stormwater?

Management of stormwater runoff has become an increasingly important responsibility for local governments. Recently enacted Federal and State regulations, combined with aging drainage infrastructure, has resulted in local governments like Ottawa developing and implementing more comprehensive stormwater management programs to achieve regulatory compliance and address recurring drainage system problems.

Over time, stormwater structures such as pipes and catch basins can become clogged and/or damaged, impairing their ability to carry stormwater runoff. If these stormwater structures are not maintained, stormwater runoff may build up in Ottawa pipes, overflowing into streets and inundating existing drainage systems.



stormwater wall collapse

Stormwater runoff also picks up pollutants such as oils, grease, fertilizers, pesticides, litter and metal. This runoff is then collected and conveyed by ditches, culverts, intakes, catch basins and storm sewers that discharge directly into creeks, rivers, streams and lakes without being treated to remove the pollutants. The contaminants in storm water can impact the quality of our local streams, lakes, and rivers. Moreover, increased runoff can exacerbate flooding problems. Stormwater management best practices are needed to prevent pollution and minimize flood impacts.

Why a Stormwater Utility?

A stormwater utility program is being implemented and billed to you in order to raise money to pay for the stormwater management program and additional compliance activities. This management program protects our community directly through infrastructure improvements, improved inspection, and maintenance of critical stormwater facilities—and indirectly through public education and community activities. The basis for stormwater utility charges to properties are related to that property's runoff contribution. This charge will include tax-exempt properties, as their facilities also create a stormwater impact.

This method ensures assessment and collection of the SWU is fair and equitable to all residents, owners, and operators within the City of Ottawa.

What Services are Provided?

How are the stormwater utility fees used?

The stormwater utility fees pay for operation and maintenance costs of the stormwater management program and Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance activities within the City.

Funds from the SWU can only be used for stormwater activities. Some services include:

- Storm sewer system maintenance, repairs, and construction
- Inspection of stormwater drainage system components on a regular basis
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Flood prevention and water quality improvement
- Pollution prevention
- Public education and outreach

Billing Questions

What is an ERU?

An ERU (equivalent residential unit) is a measurement based on the average amount of impervious space (areas on a property that do not allow water to soak in) on a single family home parcel. The City of Ottawa has determined 1 ERU as 2,600 square feet of impervious surface.

What is the amount of the SWU fee?

The City Commission set the SWU fee at \$4.00 an ERU. This rate will not be adjusted for a minimum of three years after implementation. Any future adjustments to the fee must be approved by the City Commission.

How are residential fees calculated?

Residential properties are defined as 1 ERU and will pay a flat fee (of \$4) each month.

How are non-residential fees calculated?

Non-residential properties (commercial, industrial, schools, churches, etc.) are calculated based on the total impervious surface the facility has, divided by the ERU, and multiplied by the rate. For example:

Building Size: 10,000 sqft

Impervious Area (parking lot etc.): 40,000 sqft

Total Impervious Area: 50,000 sqft (/ ERU, 2,600)

Total ERU: 19.2 (x\$4.00)

Monthly Fee: \$76.80

When does this take effect?

The Resolution and Ordinance were approved by the City Council in the Spring of 2012. SWU fees will not begin showing up on your monthly City utility bill until January 2013.

Is there any way to reduce my bill?

Yes. The City Commission adopted a system of credits that may reduce your monthly fee. Please check the City website (www.ottawaks.gov) or call (785) 229-3600 for additional details.