

What is a Stormwater Utility?

A Stormwater Utility is a legal entity which provides maintenance, improvements, planning, regulation, permitting and administrative functions for the stormwater collection system. A Stormwater Utility (like other City Utilities) will provide a method of generating revenues for these necessary activities through user fees. The Town is now studying options and is proposing to establish policies and rates in 2021.

What are Stormwater User Fees?

Stormwater Utility user fees are to be billed and collected by the Winona Lake Utilities on a monthly basis from each property. Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) are used to assess fees. An ERU is equal to the average amount of residential impervious surface area. The user fee per ERU is determined according to the cost of the annual stormwater management needs. A rate study will be completed to determine a rate.

How may the revenue be used by the Stormwater Utility?

1. Revenue from stormwater user fees may be used to fund stormwater management programs and projects.
2. Storm sewer maintenance cleaning and repair may be funded to improve drainage throughout the Town.
3. Repair of ditch banks to provide soil stabilization.
4. Cleaning of storm pipes and dredging of ditches.

Do you have more questions?

For more information regarding the Stormwater Utility, please contact Craig Allebach or Kent Adams at Winona Lake Town Hall, or participate in public meetings of the Town Council.

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Stormwater Utility
Public Education Information
Town of Winona Lake, Indiana

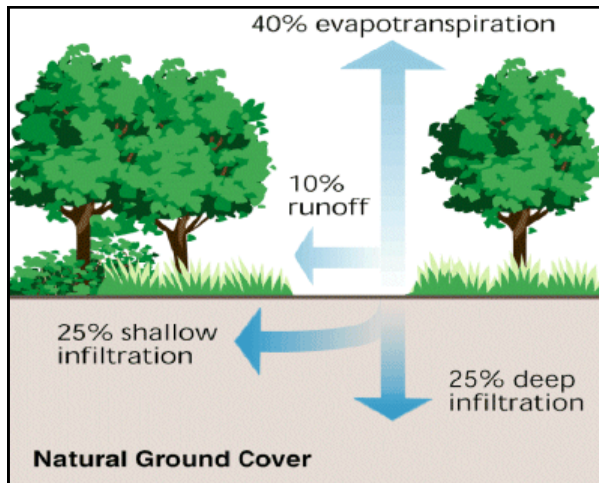
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Forming a Stormwater Utility

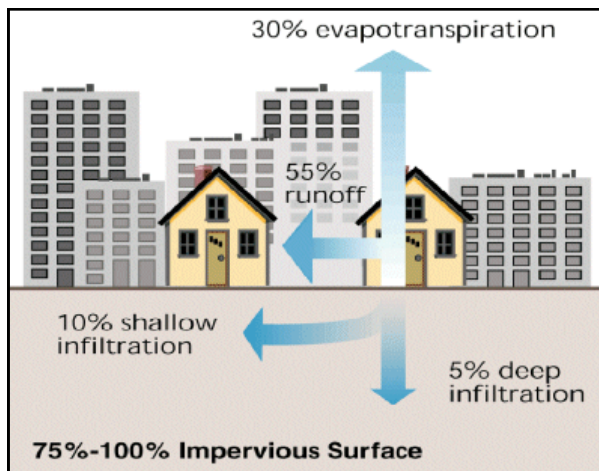


**Winona Lake
Utilities**

How Do Impervious Surfaces Affect Stormwater?



In areas of natural ground cover, stormwater is able to evaporate to the air and infiltrate to the ground. This results in less runoff and less stormwater pollution.



As the amount of impervious surface increases, the rate of stormwater runoff is increased resulting in more stormwater runoff and pollution.

What is an impervious surface?

Impervious surfaces are hard surfaces which prevent or limit the natural entry of stormwater into the soil. Impervious surfaces include all hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots, patios, and sidewalks (concrete, asphalt and compacted gravel surfaces are included). Impervious surfaces increase stormwater runoff and may contribute to stormwater pollution.

What is stormwater runoff?

Since stormwater cannot be absorbed by impervious surfaces, the stormwater runs over the surface as stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff must be managed through a stormwater collection system (pipes, culverts, ditches, swales, inlets, curb and gutter, detention ponds, etc.) to prevent standing water and flooding.

How is stormwater affected by increased runoff?

With increased amounts of impervious surface, more runoff is produced and it travels at higher speeds. This runoff picks up and carries pollutants to the stormwater collection system and eventually to receiving waters (lakes, ponds, rivers and streams). Large volumes of quickly flowing runoff will also erode soil, damage plants, and cause waters to become clouded and murky with sediments.

How is stormwater affected by increased pollutants?

Within urbanized areas, impervious surfaces tend to collect a variety of pollutants including cleaning products; paint; oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from automobiles; road salts; pesticides and fertilizers from lawn maintenance and gardening; pet waste; litter; and eroded sediments. Increased amount of pollutants can harm fish and wildlife, kill native plants, contaminate drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas unsafe.

Are the sanitary and storm drain systems the same thing?

Sanitary and storm sewers are not the same. Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing. These "wastewaters" flow to our wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains collect stormwater, which is transported through pipes and ditches to streams and waterways. Stormwater does not receive treatment like wastewater. Open grates connect to the storm system and flow directly to a stream.