

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is generated by rain events, snow melt, and constant seeps and springs through town. Stormwater runoff can cause flooding, drainage system malfunctions, adverse impacts to local waterways and water quality problems. It picks up pollutants and debris from streets, parking lots, yards, gravel parking areas, and other surfaces which can end up in local water ways flowing to McLeod Creek, Silver Creek, and eventually into the Weber River.

What is a stormwater system?

A stormwater system is designed to drain stormwater from impervious surfaces such as paved streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks and roofs. In large rain events, a stormwater system will drain excess stormwater from all surfaces to mitigate the chance of flooding and property damage.

Do we have a stormwater system now?

Park City Public Utilities currently operates a basic stormwater system with a very limited budget. The existing system has been patched together over decades and was created primarily to prevent flooding and damage to property and infrastructure.

Why is the City enhancing its current stormwater management practices?

Deficiencies in the current infrastructure include undersized, non-existent or inadequate infrastructure; and future deficiencies related to growth. In addition, staff does not currently have the resources, training, or capacity to provide the recommended level of maintenance, cleaning, inspection, and illicit discharge detection which increases the risk of flooding and pollutants entering local waterways. This problem is amplified by Park City’s designation as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4, which will increase regulatory requirements, work and costs associated with management of the stormwater system.

How will these capital improvements and replacements be funded?

City Council directed the Public Utilities Department to create a funding source that will cover all costs of the stormwater program, including operations and capital. This funding source will come from a new stormwater fee.

How is the fee assessed?

The fee will be charged based on the number of Equivalent Surface Units (ESU) on each property. Each ESU is equal to 2,000 square feet of impervious area. In most cases, the fee will be added to the existing water bill. In cases where there is not an existing water account, a separate bill will be sent to the property owner.

What will the fee cover?

The fee will cover personnel, equipment, capital improvements, and administrative costs such as professional services and supplies. The fee is expected to generate about \$1.8M in revenue annually. The annual budget will be allocated to the following categories in the approximate percentages:

- Infrastructure & Equipment – 60%
- Salaries & Wages – 25%
- Materials & Supplies – 10%
- Contract/ Misc. Services – 5%

The following is a list of example services and activities that will be provided as part of the new program:

Expansion and enhancement of existing services

- Maintenance, repair and replacement of stormwater infrastructure
- Flood mitigation
- Street sweeping
- Litter removal
- Curb and gutter
- Pipe and open channel cleaning
- Master planning and design

New services provided

- Stormwater system condition assessments and inspections
- Asset management
- Project management

Meeting of MS4 minimum control measures

- Public education and outreach
- Public participation/involvement
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Post-construction runoff control
- Pollution prevention/ good housekeeping

How much will the fee be?

Stormwater fees will be assessed based on a \$3.75 rate per ESU for the first year, with that rate phasing up to \$6 per ESU after three years.

Stormwater fees for residential will range from \$3.75 to \$26.25 per month. Multi-family residential will be \$3.75 per month per dwelling unit. Rates will range between \$15 and \$300 a month for roughly 95% of our commercial customers, with about 4% receiving a monthly bill up to \$1500.

Can Fee Payers Reduce Their Bill?

Unlike the water fee where there is a base rate and a variable charge based on consumption, we have only identified a base rate for stormwater. Due to the broad nature of the service provided, we have not identified credits with onsite improvements such as rain water harvesting or other low impact development (LID) solutions. LID solutions do not substantially reduce the cost to provide this service. Fee payers can request that we verify correct calculation of their impervious area. If there is an error in the calculation of impervious area we will adjust accordingly. If rate payers reduce their impervious area, a corresponding fee reduction would be considered.