



What are the community benefits of a stormwater utility?

- The stormwater utility fee will help the City fund stormwater maintenance and infrastructure improvements and improve the quality of stormwater services.
- The fee is considered an equitable means to pay for stormwater management because charges are relative to each property's contribution to runoff and all property owners pay a fair share.
- The fee is a more stable revenue source for stormwater management than many other sources, including most taxes.



Projects funded by the stormwater utility will improve the quality of life in Decatur by reducing flooding areas



What if I'm already managing my stormwater runoff?

The stormwater utility will include a credit program that will provide a means for property owners to reduce their stormwater utility fee. Stormwater management activities that are eligible for credits must provide a reduction in peak discharge, a reduction in stormwater runoff volume, or a water quality benefit. Properties can be eligible for multiple credits. All credits will be outlined in a Credit Manual that will be issued in Spring 2015.

For more information:

E-mail: stormwater@decaturil.gov

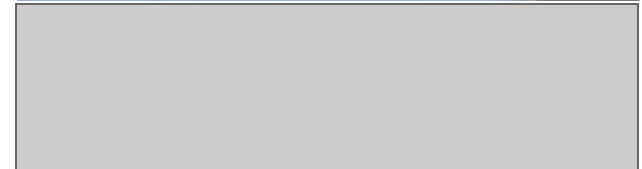
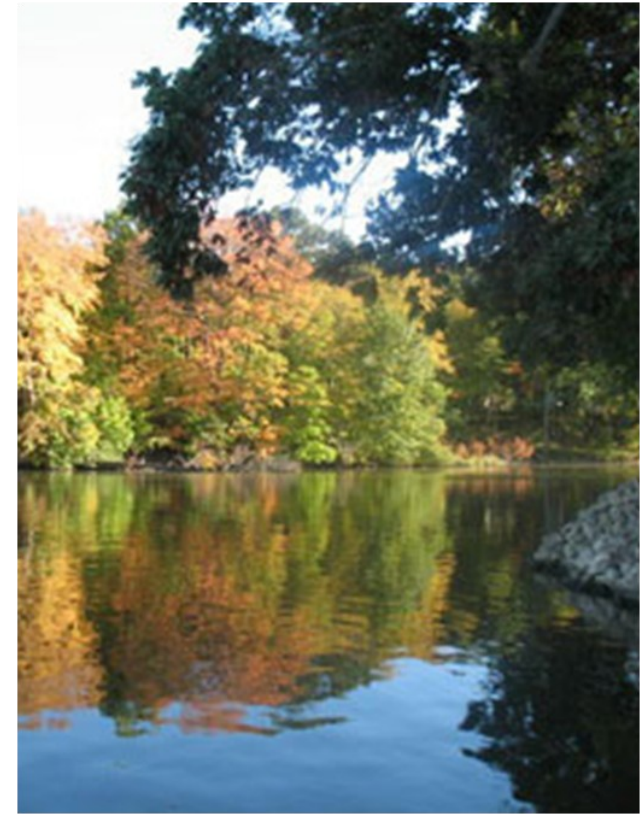
Call: 217-424-2747

*Or visit the City's website at:
<http://www.decaturil.gov/>*

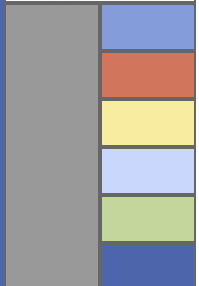


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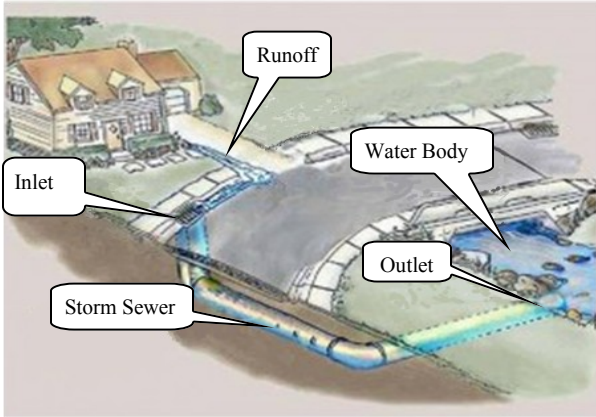
City of Decatur
Public Works Department
*Stormwater
Utility*





What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain. As rain falls to earth in agricultural and undeveloped areas, it is either absorbed or it slowly runs off and dissipates. Impervious surfaces such as rooftops and paved areas not only prevent water from being absorbed but cause it to run off at a much faster rate. As a result, unmanaged stormwater runoff can cause nuisance flooding and possible threats to public health and safety.



As stormwater flows over construction sites, farm fields, lawns, driveways, parking lots and streets, it picks up sediment, nutrients, bacteria, metals, pesticides and other pollutants. Unlike sanitary sewers that go to a treatment plant, most stormwater is discharged directly to local water bodies such as Lake Decatur, Stevens Creek and Spring Creek.

In terms of both stormwater quantity and quality, more stormwater places more demands on the City's stormwater infrastructure.



What is a Stormwater Utility?

Like gas, electricity, water and sewage, stormwater runoff can be managed as a utility. The utility would be supported by fees, not taxes. The fee is based on the concept that every property in a watershed contributes runoff and every property should support the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of the stormwater drainage system in the watershed. The amount of support is based on the amount of runoff the property produces. The amount of runoff from a property is directly proportional to the amount of hard, or impervious, area that is on the property.

For the City of Decatur, the stormwater fee will fund stormwater expenses. Specifically, the revenue from the fee will fund activities to improve and maintain the infrastructure that transports stormwater to streams and Lake Decatur and fund activities that would improve the quality of the stormwater before it is discharged to streams and Lake Decatur. Every property owner within the City would be billed for the stormwater utility fee. The stormwater utility fee would be based on the amount of impervious area on the property.



Why does the City need a Stormwater Utility?

Water quality and stormwater runoff have become expensive problems affecting public safety, health and the environment. Federal and state regulations on stormwater are becoming increasingly restrictive. In addition, the City has identified over \$60 million in projects to reduce flooding problems within the City...and that lists continues to grow.

To meet these challenges, the City has established a Stormwater Utility. The stormwater utility, supported by equitable fees, will provide a dedicated funding source for addressing citizen needs like reducing flooding, replacing storm sewer pipes, reducing bank erosion, and fulfilling regulatory requirements to reduce stormwater pollution.



Why is this a fee and not a tax?

User fees are a fee for services provided and have been commonly used to fund all or part of public works programs such as water, sewer and, now, stormwater. Taxes, generally speaking, do not have a direct relationship between the source of revenue and the purpose to which it is applied. Not all properties pay taxes.



How much will the Stormwater Utility Fee be?

The stormwater utility fee is based on the amount of impervious surface area on a property. The average impervious area on residential properties in Decatur was calculated to be 4,500 square feet. This amount of impervious square footage is considered to be one (1) Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Non-residential parcels would have their ERU's calculated based on the amount of impervious area found on the property. All residential parcels would have 1 ERU.

The rate structure is a **base fee of \$3.00** for all property parcels combined with a rate of **\$0.67 per ERU**. Some examples are:

Property Type	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
Residential Lot	\$3.67	\$11.01	\$44.04
Non-Residential Lot w/ 45,000 sf of Impervious Area (10 ERUs)	\$9.70	\$29.10	\$116.40
Non-Residential Lot w/ 112,500 sf of Impervious Area (25 ERUs)	\$19.75	\$59.25	\$237.00

For the first year of the stormwater utility fee (Oct. 2014 to Sept. 2015), only \$3.00 per parcel will be charged to property owners and no fee will be charged to tax-exempt parcels.



Storm sewer installation on Southampton Drive improved drainage and helped to reduce groundwater problems for local residents.