



# Stormwater Utility and Connection Fees

*Environmentally conscious*

We will make decisions that preserve  
and protect the environment to the  
highest feasible degree



# Outline (click question to be directed to page)

- What is a stormwater utility fee?
- How are the fee levels determined?
- How does the City of Red Wing currently pay for stormwater management?
- What are the dangers of stormwater runoff?
- Where does stormwater go?
- Why does the City of Red Wing charge the fee?
- How will the money be used?
- What about new development?
- Do other Minnesota cities charge?
- Additional information

# What is a stormwater utility fee?

- A less expensive way to pay for stormwater improvements and system maintenance.
- Properties contributing to runoff and water quality pay the cost.
- Comparable to sanitary sewer fee on water bills.

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# How are the fee levels determined?

	<i>Fee per acre</i>	<i>Minimum Fee per parcel</i>
■ <b>Agricultural</b>		
○ Non-cropped land	\$0	\$0
○ Cropped land	\$2	\$4
■ <b>Residential</b>		
○ Low, Medium, and High Density*	NA	\$4
○ Rural and Mobil	NA	\$4

\*Charge is per unit for residential properties with a maximum fee equivalent to 8 units per residential dwelling.  
NA- fee per acre is not applicable.

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# How are the fee levels determined?

## ■ Commercial

	<i>Fee per acre</i>	<i>Minimum Fee per parcel</i>
○ Community	\$7.67	\$4
○ Downtown	\$15.58	\$4
○ Industrial	\$6.92	\$4
○ Institutional	\$3.50	\$4
○ Mixed Use	\$13.33	\$4
○ Regional Commercial	\$11.33	\$5.33

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# How are the fee levels determined?

	<i>Fee per acre</i>	<i>Minimum Fee per parcel</i>
■ <b>Park/Open Space</b>		
○ Open Space	\$0	\$0
○ Active Park	\$0	\$0
○ Golf Courses	\$2	\$4
■ <b>Other</b>		
○ Utility	\$6.92	\$4
○ Vacant	\$0	\$0
○ PIIC	\$0	\$0
○ HRA and Port Authority	NA	\$4

NA- fee per acre is not applicable.

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# How does the City of Red Wing currently pay for stormwater management?

- Developers pay for installation of stormwater facilities in new developments
- General property tax levy
- Special assessments
- Many tax-exempt properties don't currently pay for their portion of stormwater management.
  - Various government properties, schools, and churches

# How does the City of Red Wing currently pay for stormwater management?

- All property owners help pay the cost of treating and safely routing runoff that leaves their property
  - Includes normal tax-paying public and tax-exempt landowners.
- Fees were calculated on the estimated runoff volume expected from different land use categories.

# What is the danger of stormwater runoff?

- Runoff from impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, and parking lots increases rate and reduces water quality of runoff.
- Excessive runoff can result in localized flooding



*Controlling pet waste*

# What is the danger of stormwater runoff?

- Runoff from agricultural lands can also degrade local water quality.
  - Sediment
  - Nutrients
  - Pathogens
  - Other chemicals (insecticides and herbicides)



*Water quality sampling 2009*

# Where does stormwater go?

- The City of Red Wing builds and maintains stormwater conveyance and treatment facilities
  - Storm sewers
  - Ponds (flood control and quality treatment)
  - Curbs and Gutters
  - Channels



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# Why does the City of Red Wing charge the fee?

- To use public funds wisely and efficiently
  - Current tax approach is like paying for a car using borrowed money.
  - Stormwater utility is like paying for a car using money saved over time.

# Why does the City of Red Wing charge the fee?

- The City of Red Wing is mandated to make stormwater infrastructure improvements to comply with federal and state regulatory requirements.
- This will require new facilities, increased maintenance, educational programs, and compliance monitoring and reporting.



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# Why does the City of Red Wing charge the fee?

- Some storm sewers and structures in Red Wing are more than 100 years old- many need to be revitalized or replaced.
- Some are undersized and need more capacity.



*Red Wing's first storm sewer 1885*

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# Why does the City of Red Wing charge the fee?

- Additional revenue is required to meet these mandates.
- A utility fee is more equitable than property tax
  - All parcel owners participate, including tax exempt properties
  - Fee based on runoff expected from each land use categories.

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# How will the money be used?

- Water quality treatment and conveyance facilities.
- Pond maintenance
- Water quality monitoring
- System maintenance
  - Sediment removal
  - Debris removal
  - Salt management



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# [ How will the money be used? ]

- Educational programs
- Studies and mandatory reporting to state and federal agencies.



*Pond capacity sampling 2008*



*Maintenance and repair*

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# [ What about new development? ]

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- Development will continue to pay for internal storm sewer system
- Each new building will be charged a storm sewer connection fee to help finance downstream conveyance or treatment systems.

# Do other Minnesota cities charge?

**YES- more than 130!**

- Andover
- Anoka
- Belle Plaine
- Burnsville
- Carver
- Centerville
- Farmington
- Jordan
- Maple Plain
- Mayer
- Northfield
- Rogers
- Rosemount
- Savage
- Stillwater
- Waconia

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# [ Do other Minnesota cities charge? ]

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- Storm water fees in Minnesota range from \$12 to \$117 annually per residential parcel.
- Red Wing's rate is \$48 annually per residential parcel.

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## Additional Information

For more information about Red Wing's Stormwater Utility Fee such as the ordinance passed by City Council, fee details, land-use designations, or the Stormwater Pollution Preventions Plan (SWPPP), visit [www.redwing.org](http://www.redwing.org) or call Public Works at 385.3674.

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