

What is a storm water utility?

A stormwater utility is a legal entity which provides maintenance, improvements, planning, regulation and administrative functions for the town's stormwater collection system. A stormwater utility (like other utilities) provides a method of generating revenues through user fees.

An "Equivalent Residential Unit" or ERU, is a measure of the average amount of impervious surface area for a single-family residential property located in Greentown and will be used to assess stormwater user fees. Much like a "kilowatt" serves as the basis for electricity, the ERU is the base unit for a storm water utility.

The Town completed a study that measured impervious surface areas and determined the ERU as a base billing unit. Non-residential properties (businesses, churches, schools, medical facilities, etc.) are billed based on the amount of impervious area on their property. Residential properties are billed 1 ERU per month.

The Town is responsible for providing stormwater management facilities and services, including installation and maintenance of storm sewers, inlets, and ditches. Funding is not provided by the federal or state government for these services, so the Town must establish a funding source. The revenue generated from the stormwater user fees can be used to make improvements and maintain storm sewers and the collection system.

If you have additional questions or would like more information on the Stormwater Utility, please contact the Utility office at

765-628-3263



Stormwater Utility

Public Education Information

Greentown Utilities

112 N. Meridian St.

Greentown, In 46936

STORMWATER UTILITY



GREENTOWN
UTILITES



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

As the amount of impervious surface increases, the rate and volume of stormwater runoff is increased resulting in more stormwater runoff to be managed.

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.

Since stormwater cannot be absorbed by impervious surfaces, the stormwater runs over the surface as a 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.

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.

Within urbanized areas, impervious surfaces tend to collect a variety of pollutants including cleaning products, paint, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from cars, road salts, pesticides, and fertilizers from lawn maintenance and gardening per 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.

Sanitary sewers and storm drains are not the same. Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, and washing machines. These “wastewaters” flow to our wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains collect stormwater, which is transported through pipes and ditches to a stream or waterway. Storm water does not receive treatment like wastewater. When you see an open grate in the street it is connected to a storm system and flows directly to a stream or water way.

