

Stormwater – It Matters to Everyone!

Stormwater runoff occurs when impervious surfaces like roofs and driveways prevent rainwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Managing stormwater is important to ensure it doesn't flood homes and businesses nor carry pollutants into our waterways.



www.cityofnewalbany.com



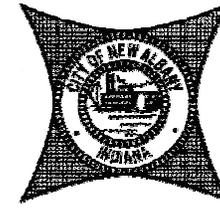
Find out how you can make a difference:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/water/npdes/permits/wetwthr/storm/rule13.html>



City of New Albany
311 Hauss Square, Rm 316
New Albany, Indiana 47150

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New Albany's Stormwater Fee
-Protecting the Environment
- Providing Better Drainage and Flood Control

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City of New Albany
Stormwater Quality Program

(812)-948-5333
www.cityofnewalbany.com

Protecting the Environment

New Albany, as well as other communities in the area, is facing mounting challenges and requirements associated with its Stormwater Program including:

- Meeting new EPA stormwater quality requirements
- Improving and maintaining the stormwater drainage system
- Addressing flooding & drainage issues

The City has spent the past year reviewing options for funding these ever-increasing requirements, without raising taxes. New Albany chose to fund the program in a way similar to hundreds of other communities around the country; with a new stormwater utility user fee.

An interim monthly stormwater user fee ran through May 2006. Beginning June 1, a regular user fee replaced the interim user fee. Residential customers were charged \$2.00 per month January through May 2006 and will be charged a flat fee of \$3.17 per month thereafter. This is less than Jeffersonville's \$3.50 and Louisville's \$4.70 per month. Non-residential customers will be charged a fee based on how much impervious area they have (like rooftops, driveways and parking lots).

This user fee approach is the fair and equitable standard used across the country. For example, if a corner restaurant has four times the impervious area of a residential property, then it pays four times the user fee.



Measured impervious surfaces are the basis for charging non-residential customers. Residential properties are charged a flat rate.

WHAT IS STORMWATER AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE? Similar to sanitary sewer services, the City operates and maintains a system of pipes and channels that drains and protects our homes and businesses from flooding. This drainage system is costly to operate and maintain, and it is facing increasing regulatory requirements from the EPA.



These efforts will help protect our natural resources for future generations.

Stormwater comes from rain and snowmelt. As rain and snow falls to earth in agricultural and undeveloped areas, it is either absorbed or it slowly runs off and dissipates. In a growing city like New Albany, rooftops and paved areas not only prevent the stormwater from being absorbed, but helps the runoff (also known as stormwater) move faster, causing erosion and flooding problems. The increased stormwater can accumulate, causing nuisance drainage problems, flooding, and possible threats to public health and safety.

Drainage backups and flooding are only parts of the problem. As the rain falls onto our streets and living spaces, the stormwater runoff carries pollutants such as oil, heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. With the passage of time, these pollutants buildup in our waterways and underground drainage systems, damaging our streams, rivers and lakes, resulting in odor, color and other environmental problems.

WHO ELSE IS REGULATED? Thousands of communities around the country and hundreds in Indiana. In our area, this includes Floyd & Clark Counties, Clarksville, Jeffersonville, Sellersburg, and Greenville,

WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY FEE? A user fee is a mechanism for the City to equitably recover costs for services it must provide to meet environmental stormwater regulations and public demands for good drainage. The fee is structured to recover costs fairly and equitably.

WHO HAS TO PAY? Everyone. All property within the City of New Albany will pay the stormwater user fee. These properties include houses, businesses, industry, schools, public facilities and churches. The City made a special effort to ensure fairness and equity. This has led to a policy that everybody pays.

Better Drainage Flood Control

WHAT WILL THE MONEY BE USED FOR? Major components of this program include:

- Pollution prevention by reducing illegal discharges and pollutants
- Educating the public on stormwater quality issues
- Increasing maintenance/repair of the city's stormwater system
- Enforcing recently adopted stormwater quality design standards and regulations
- Constructing of long overdue drainage improvements and stormwater quality management projects

WHY ARE CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS BEING BILLED? Because this is a user fee and not a tax. The user fee, just like electric, drinking water and sanitary sewer fees, is based upon the cost of services provided. Because this is not a tax, it is collected from all customers who receive service. Churches and schools contribute a significant amount of runoff to the City because of their size and amount of impervious surfaces. They will be treated equitably like all other customers under the user fee rate structure.

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