

## IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO REDUCE MY BILL?



Yes! There are two ways for you to impact the amount of your payment. First, property owners can remove impervious surfaces from their property. This will result in a direct fee reduction if the removal of impervious surface results in fewer billing units. Second, the City's Credit Program provides an opportunity for property owners to reduce their stormwater utility bill by operating and maintaining a qualifying stormwater management facility. More info can be found at:

[www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater](http://www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater)

The City is also offering an incentives program that provides a one-time cost share for implementing eligible water resources stewardship measures. This program, called the Charlottesville Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), is administered by the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (TJSWCD). More information about CCAP can be found at:

[www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater](http://www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater)

## WHY IS THE FEE BASED ON IMPERVIOUS AREA?

Basing the Stormwater Utility Fee on impervious area fairly distributes the cost of addressing compliance with state and federal stormwater regulations and stormwater management needs across all eligible property owners. Parcels with higher amounts of impervious area contribute greater amounts of stormwater and pollutants to the stormwater system and receiving waters and therefore carry a proportionate burden of the cost to manage the related issues.

### LEARN MORE:

Additional information on stormwater management in Charlottesville is available at [www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater](http://www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater)

*If you have any questions regarding Stormwater Utility Billing, please contact:*

City Treasurer's Office

(434) 970-3146

[citytreas@charlottesville.gov](mailto:citytreas@charlottesville.gov)

*If you have any questions regarding the Stormwater Utility and/or the Water Resources Protection Program, please contact:*

Stormwater Utility Administrator

(434) 970-3876

[utilitiesoutreach@charlottesville.gov](mailto:utilitiesoutreach@charlottesville.gov)



PLEASE RECYCLE

## CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE STORMWATER UTILITY



In 2014, the City adopted a Stormwater Utility fee to provide a dedicated and stable source of funding for stormwater management activities to address increasingly stringent stormwater regulations, an aging and deteriorating stormwater system, a backlog of drainage and flooding problems, and decades of water resources degradation.



STORMWATER UTILITY

PHONE: (434) 970-3800

[utilitiesoutreach@charlottesville.gov](mailto:utilitiesoutreach@charlottesville.gov)

[www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater](http://www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater)

# WHAT IS THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE?

The Stormwater Utility Fee is a fee for services based on a calculation of the amount of impervious area on every eligible parcel of improved real property in the City regardless of tax status. Impervious area is defined as area covered by hard surfaces such as structures, paving, compacted gravel, concrete, or other man-made features that prevent, restrict, or impede the downward passage of stormwater into the underlying soil.

## HOW WILL PARCELS BE BILLED?

For taxable parcels, the Stormwater Utility Fee will be charged to the owner of each parcel in two equal halves, twice a year, and combined with the real estate tax bill.

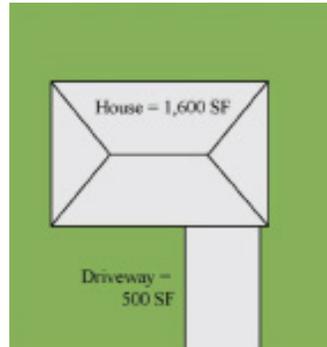
For tax exempt parcels, the Stormwater Utility Fee bill will be charged in two equal halves, twice a year, and sent to the owner of the parcel at the same time that real estate tax bills are sent.

## WILL MY MORTGAGE COMPANY PAY THE FEE?

The City anticipates that many mortgage and escrow agents will pay the Stormwater Utility Fee along with the real estate taxes. It is the responsibility of each and every parcel owner to pay their bill regardless of whether or not their real estate taxes are paid by an Escrow Agent. If you have concerns regarding payment of the Stormwater Utility Fee through escrow, contact your Escrow Agent directly.

# HOW IS THE FEE CALCULATED?

Each parcel is charged in 500 square foot (SF) increments of impervious area, referred to as a billing unit (BU). The total impervious area for the parcel is divided by 500 and rounded up to the next whole unit. The Stormwater Utility Fee is calculated by multiplying the number of BUs by the utility rate adopted by City Council (\$1.20 per billing unit per month). *There is no fee for parcels determined to have less than 300 square feet of impervious area.*



### Example Fee Calculation:

- Total impervious area = 2,100 SF
- Divide by 500 SF (one billing unit):  $2,100 / 500 = 4.2$
- Round to the next whole number: 4.2 rounds to 5 BUs
- Multiply the number of BUs by the rate (\$1.20 per BU per month) to determine the annual fee:  $5 \times \$1.20 \times 12 = \text{\$72 annual fee}$

**Impervious Areas Include:**  
driveways, parking areas, roads, sidewalks, walkways, roofs, patios, decks

# HOW IS THE AMOUNT OF IMPERVIOUS AREA DETERMINED FOR EACH PARCEL?

The impervious area for each parcel is determined annually by using aerial photography, as-built drawings, final approved site plans, and other appropriate engineering and mapping analysis tools.



The parcel depicted to the left contains both impervious and pervious area.

### Impervious Areas:

- 1) Patio/deck area
- 2) Driveway (paved or gravel)
- 3) Roof and covered carport
- 4) Walkways (paved or gravel)

### Pervious Areas:

- Backyard gardens
- Front yard grass, trees, and bushes
- Back and side yards grass, trees, and bushes

The City has provided a mechanism for the parcel owner to submit a Petition for Adjustment to correct discrepancies. For more information, visit [www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater](http://www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater)