

CITY OF LANCASTER
UNDERSTANDING YOUR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEE

More than five years ago, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered the City to eliminate the 750 million gallons of stormwater runoff that pollutes our waterways each year -- or face a fine of \$37,500 per day. Chesapeake Bay Executive Order 13508 also requires all municipalities in seven states, including the City of Lancaster to meet nutrient reductions requirements for the MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) areas of the City. After dozens of public meetings, neighborhood gatherings, and individual briefings to review options for avoiding heavy fines and preserving our water quality, City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 1-2014 establishing a Stormwater Management Fee (SWMF) for all properties in the City of Lancaster. This SWMF will apply to all property owners, including non-profits and government entities. These fees will be used to recover the cost of managing and improving the City's stormwater management system and to implement green infrastructure strategies to eliminate pollution caused by stormwater runoff.

Your Stormwater Management Fee is based on the amount of impervious area on your property. Impervious area is any surface, including rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, concrete patios, etc. that keeps rainfall from being absorbed into the ground. Rain that falls on these impervious surfaces eventually runs into the City's sewer system and causes untreated, polluted water to flow into the Conestoga River.

Tier Assignment and Stormwater Management Fees:

Each property in the City has been assigned to a Stormwater Management Tier based on the amount of impervious area determined to be on the property. The SWMF for all properties is calculated using a Base Rate of \$30.96/1,000 square feet of impervious area. The Tier Assignment for your property is shown on this SWMF Assessment Notice.

Impervious Area	Tier Assignment	Quarterly* SWMF
0 - 300 sq ft	Tier 0	No Fee
301 - 1,000 sq ft	Tier 1	\$3.87
1,001 - 2,000 sq ft	Tier 2	\$11.61
2,001 - 3,000 sq ft	Tier 3	\$19.35
3,001 or more sq ft	Tier 4	Fee Based on Actual Impervious Area

*Some properties will be billed on a monthly basis. For these properties, the monthly bill will be one-third (1/3rd) of the Quarterly SWMF amounts shown in this chart. The frequency of billing for your property is shown on this Stormwater Management Fee Assessment Notice.

The effective date of the Stormwater Management Fee Ordinance is March 17, 2014. The first bill you receive with SWMF charges will reflect fees prorated to March 17, 2014. For example, if your water/sewer bill covers the period from January 15th-April 15th, you will only be charged Stormwater Management Fees for the period from March 17th-April 15th.

Property Owner responsible for payment of Stormwater Management Fee:

The Stormwater Management Fee Ordinance allows a property owner to delegate responsibility for payment of the fee to a property management company or tenant(s) in the same way that responsibility for payment of water/sewer bills can be delegated. **If you currently require your tenant(s) to directly pay the water/sewer bill for your property, the SWMF will be added to their bill. Your tenant(s) will NOT be receiving a separate notification about the SWMF.** If you delegate payment responsibility to your tenant(s), please notify them about the SWMF so they are aware this fee will be charged on their water/sewer bill. While property owners can delegate payment responsibility to their tenant(s), property owners are ultimately responsible for payment of the SWMF bill if the tenant fails to pay the bill.

Who to call with questions:

For questions regarding the Stormwater Management Fee, please call the Department of Public Works at (717) 291-4739. For questions about your water/sewer account, please call Customer Service at (717) 735-3425. To learn more about the City's Green Infrastructure Plan, please see the enclosed FAQ or visit the City's stormwater management information website at www.saveitlanchester.com.