



STORMWATER UTILITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Village of Belleville has adopted a stormwater utility to provide a dedicated funding mechanism for the Village to improve, operate and maintain the stormwater management system. Currently expenditures for stormwater management have come from the Village's general fund (i.e. property taxes) and/or from special assessments. The utility will reduce or eliminate the need to levy taxes for these projects and will instead apply the charges proportionally to those people who contribute to stormwater runoff and receive benefit from stormwater management.

Why does the Village need stormwater management?

Failure to adequately manage the Village's stormwater system increases the risk of flooding, affects the operation of other utilities, most notably the sanitary sewer system, increases soil erosion, and threatens the quality of surface waters and the environment.

What is a Stormwater Utility?

A stormwater utility is responsible for funding the operation, construction, and maintenance of the Village's stormwater infrastructure, and for stormwater system planning. A stormwater utility generates its revenue through user fees very much like a wastewater utility funds the Village's sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment system. The fee is based on the amount of stormwater a particular parcel passes to the stormwater system. In general, the more runoff a parcel contributes, the greater the fee.

However even if a property were to generate no runoff, there would still be a minimal fee applied to the property for the costs associated with maintaining public roads and public properties that also generate stormwater runoff.

Why is the Utility being implemented now?

The Village has been aware of the need to address drainage, flooding, and erosion repair projects for many years. The needs of the Village to adequately address stormwater will only increase as development continues to occur in and around the Village.



A recent aerial photograph outlining impervious surfaces associated with a commercial area in southeast Wisconsin.