What will be the fee be based on?
There is a strong correlation between impervious ground cover (pavement, roofs, etc.) on a property and the amount of stormwater runoff and pollution that property generates. This is because as more impervious cover is created there is proportionally less vegetation and less soil area for the absorption of rainfall. Therefore, impervious area is the “meter” used to measure stormwater system “use” in a stormwater utility.

The Village has used detailed maps, aerial photos and site plans to determine the amount of impervious cover that exists on each parcel and determine fees. Nonresidential parcels will be billed based on their actual measured impervious area relative to the average impervious area of Village residential properties. Residential parcels will be billed base on their number of living units.

Isn’t this just another tax?
No, the fee is similar to the routine water and sewer fees currently paid by all contributing customers. This fee, by incorporating tax-exempt properties, actually reduces the overall cost to taxpayers. The stormwater fee is based on the percentage of impervious area, not tax value, and applies to both taxable and tax-exempt properties.

How much will this cost me?
In spring 2009 the Village convened a meeting of stormwater stakeholders to evaluate the Village stormwater program budget and priorities. Based on the outcome of this process, it was determined that a Belleville stormwater utility would need to raise approximately $100,000 annually to pay for needed storm system infrastructure operation and maintenance, and to fund priority capital improvement projects. The charge per household needed to support this budget is $4.17/month, or $50 per year. This is less than the average Wisconsin stormwater utility rate of $54 per household annually. Under this charge rate scenario, nonresidential property owners will be charged $50 annual for every 2,800 square feet of impervious area they own.

How can I reduce my monthly fee?
The Village has developed a process for granting non-residential property owners that install and maintain stormwater management devices (such as detention ponds) that reduce the Village’s cost of providing stormwater service a reduced rate for on their stormwater utility bill.

What are the next steps?
The Village is currently in the process of implementing the stormwater utility. It is expected that utility customers will see a stormwater charge on their utility bill starting in early 2011.

For information about the stormwater utility please contact the Village Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer at (608) 424-1655.