Stormwater Utility Management

Special points of interest:

- What is stormwater?
- Why is this important?
- What is a stormwater utility?
- How does it affect you?
- Where does the money go?
- How can you help?

Stormwater

Stormwater is water that originates from precipitation. It can soak into the soil, be stored on the land in ponds and puddles, evaporate, or runoff.

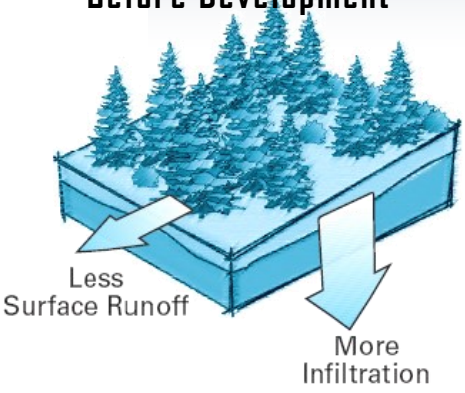
Impervious Areas

Development of land creates impervious areas such as roads, rooftops, parking areas, and sidewalks that prevent rainfall or snowmelt from soaking into the soil, thus causing stormwater runoff. This runoff can exceed the capacity of the existing natural drainage areas and reduce the amount of subsurface moisture or groundwater.

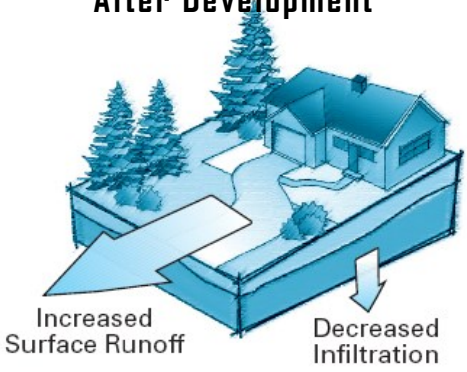
Impervious Area Impact

As a result, manmade collection devices (storm sewers, curb & gutter, and ditches) consolidate the runoff. The stormwater runoff is then discharged to downstream waters such as creeks, rivers, and lakes. This increases the downstream surface flow causing an increased velocity that can lead to additional issues such as erosion.

Before Development



After Development



Stormwater Management

Like many cities in Iowa, Fort Dodge has a stormwater system of curb and gutter, pipe, ditches, ravines, creeks, and rivers that transport stormwater runoff. This is similar to the water and sanitary infrastructure that serves your home or business. This stormwater infrastructure must be constructed and maintained to manage stormwater volume throughout the entire city.

Establishing a Stormwater Utility Fund

In 2007, the city established a stormwater utility to provide a revenue source for the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements associated with the City's storm sewer system. To establish the utility, a unit of measure was determined by randomly selecting 50 homes in Fort Dodge and calculating the mean value of impervious area on these lots. This area was determined to be 2,533 square feet, thus being 1 ERU (equivalent residential unit). The impervious area for each property in Fort Dodge was determined, then divided by 2,533 sqft to determine the number of ERU's for any given property.

Updated: 04/28/2020

Cost to You

The monthly fees set in 2007 were unchanged until 2018. In May 2018, City Council adopted the following fees, with a 3% annual increase in base fees and ERU rates.

Use	Base Fee FY19	Base Fee FY20	Base Fee FY21	Base Fee FY22
Single Family Detached & Condos (per unit) - Developed	$5.00	$5.15	$5.31	$5.47
All Other Developed Uses (Apartments, Commercial, etc.)	$18.00 + ERU	$18.54 + ERU	$19.10 + ERU	$19.67 + ERU

FY (Fiscal Year) is July-June (ie FY 19 = July 2018-June 2019)
ERU's for All Other Properties is measured based on impervious area
See City Code 13.32 and Exhibit A for detailed information

Questions:
City of Fort Dodge
Engineering Department
819 1st Ave S
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515.576.4551 x1004
engineering@fortdodgeiowa.org

Where Does the Money Go?

No less than 90% of the revenue is utilized for operation, maintenance, and capital improvements, while 10% may be used for administration of the Utility. The fee collected generates an average of $750,000 per year. This, along with other funding sources, have funded a number of projects including: East Region Storm Sewer (1st Ave S at S 27th & S 29th, detention ponds, and others), South Central Drainage (15th Ave S area), and more, as well as many small storm sewer replacements and repairs.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you are considering property development or enhancement in a commercial or industrial property, a Site Plan is required. This will address all stormwater drainage concerns. Contact the Development Services Office at 515.576.4551 x1004 for more information.

We Need Your Help

Stormwater is everyone's concern and you can take the following steps to reduce stormwater runoff:

- DO NOT deposit litter, debris, yard waste, etc. into the street or storm drain. This can cause localized flooding and damage to the system.
- Incorporate more green space and less impervious surface into your property.
- Discharge sump pumps, roof drains, and other runoff to green spaces (yards, gardens, landscaping, etc.).
- Allow thick vegetation or "buffer strips" to slow down runoff and increase ground infiltration.
- Shovel/blow snow onto grass or landscaped areas.
- Aerate your lawn.

East Region Storm Sewer Detention Pond