

# City of Mount Vernon: Stormwater Utility



## Frequently Asked Questions: Residential

**1 What is stormwater?**  
*Stormwater is rainwater that runs off streets, lawns, and other surfaces making its way through curbs, ditches and storm pipes to local streams and ultimately to our Kokosing River.*

**2 What is an impervious surface?**  
*Impervious surfaces are surfaces where rainwater runs off without absorption into the ground. Examples of impervious surfaces include roofs, driveways, and parking lots.*

**3 What is an ERU?**  
*ERU stands for Equivalent Residential Unit. When creating the stormwater utility, residential parcels (single family homes) were analyzed to determine the average impervious area present on each parcel. For Mount Vernon, the average residence includes 2,900 square feet of impervious area.*

**4 Why do I have to pay for stormwater?**  
*Stormwater funds support drainage improvements in the City which are needed to promote public safety, economic and municipal function. The City also has to meet requirements set forth by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to help protect streams and wildlife and reduce flooding.*

**5 Will my rate be the same each month?**  
*City Council approved a \$4 per ERU rate beginning July 1, 2020 continuing for one year. On January 1, 2021, the rate will increase to \$5 per ERU. On January 1, 2022, the rate will increase to \$6 per ERU and will remain at that rate unless there is further City Council action.*



**Mount Vernon has established a stormwater utility to provide dedicated funding to protect the public and the environment.**

**6 Do other cities have to pay too?**  
*Yes, there are over 130 stormwater utilities across Ohio including Newark, Lancaster, and Wooster. This is a City-wide fee, similar to the Muskingum Watershed fee*

**7 What will the money be used for?**  
*Funds collected for the utility can only be spent on maintenance or improvements to our public stormwater system. This can include system maintenance and equipment for leaf collection and the design of new infrastructure including pipes, inlets, and curb and gutter.*

**8 Does everyone pay the same rate?**  
*Everyone pays the same rate; however non-residential entities pay for each ERU (every 2,900 square feet of impervious area on their property).*

**9 Are adjustments or appeals possible?**  
*If you believe your bill needs adjustment, contact the City Engineer and fill out an Adjustment Request Form. If you do not like the results an appeal can be made to the Utility Commission. .*



**Starting in August 2020 stormwater charges will be added to your water and wastewater bill.**

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## Frequently Asked Questions: Non-Residential



### **A** What is the difference between a residential and non-residential bill?

*A residential bill is based on a flat rate of one ERU, a non-residential bill is based on the total impervious area on the property divided by 2,900 square feet (the ERU, a measurement of impervious area of the average Mount Vernon residence).*



### **B** How did you determine my non-residential specific impervious area?

*For each non-residential property, an aerial photo was used to measure impervious areas (roofs, parking lots) and pervious areas (grass).*



### **C** How can I verify my impervious area?

*If you would like to verify your impervious area, please contact the City Engineer's office.*



### **D** Are fees for stormwater tax-deductible?

*No, the Internal Revenue Service does not recognize fees as being tax deductible.*



### **E** How can I reduce my stormwater fee?

*Non-residential property owners can reduce the fee by reducing the impervious area on your property. This can be tracked through building permits, and for applying for adjustments through the City Engineer's office.*



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### **F** What is the process for getting an adjustment?

*If you believe your bill needs adjustment, contact the City Engineer and fill out an Adjustment Request Form. If you do not like the results an appeal can be made to the Utility Commission.*



### **G** Are credits available?

*Credits are available only for non-residential customers and are provided for reductions in quantity of stormwater runoff and/or improved stormwater quality through detention. The City's Rules and Regulations, available online, defines the necessary steps to obtain credits.*



### **H** I have a detention pond; can I get a fee reduction?

*If your facility can provide written documentation that all stormwater standards are met, then you could be eligible for a credit. Please refer to the City's online Rules and Regulations.*



### **I** I live in a duplex. Who pays the bill?

*Properties zoned as multiple family will be billed to the owner of the property.*



### **J** I live in a mobile home park or apartment complex. Who receives the bill?

*The mobile home park or apartment complex owner will receive the bill.*