Neighborhood Storage Improvement Project

You may have recently received or will soon receive your first quarterly water bill that includes the new stormwater utility fee, which went into effect on Jan. 1. Single-family homes will be assessed the new fee beginning in the first quarter of 2020 and multi-family and non-residential buildings will be billed for the first and second quarters beginning in April 2020.

The Village implemented this fee to support the Neighborhood Storage Improvement Project, which will provide critical flood relief to thousands of Wilmette residents. This project is the single largest public works investment ever made by the Village and will improve safety, access and quality of life for all residents.

Sample utility bill

Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois 60091-0040
847-251-2700
ar@wilmette.com

UTILITY BILL
Customer Copy
Please keep this portion for your records

CUSTOMER NAME	SERVICE LOCATION
EXAMPLE RESIDENT	123 MAIN ST

BILL NUMBER	BILL DATE	ACCOUNT #	CUSTOMER #	DUE DATE
xxxxxx	01/03/2020	xxxxxx	xxxxx	01/31/2020

CHARGE DESCRIPTION	METER NUMBER	READ CODE	PREVIOUS READ DATE	CURRENT READ DATE	PREVIOUS READING	CURRENT READING	USAGE	CHARGE AMOUNT
WATER USE FEE	xxxxxxxx	A	01/03/2020	01/03/2020	768	791	23	$63.25
SEWER USE FEE			01/03/2020	01/03/2020				$97.52
REFUSE FEE			01/03/2020	01/03/2020				$71.25
METER FEE			01/03/2020	01/03/2020				$0.67
STORMWATER FEE			01/03/2020	01/03/2020				$36.00

View your account and pay your bill online! Visit wilmette.com and select "Pay Bills Online" from the left side bar.

The stormwater utility fee is assessed based on the amount of impervious surface area on each customer's property. Impervious surfaces are materials that prevent water from soaking into the ground – this includes the building footprint, pavement, rooftops, patios and sidewalks. Properties with more impervious surface create more runoff, which flows into our sewer system. Of the funding strategies considered, this measure was determined to be most reflective of a property's impact on the storm sewer system.

2020 Single-Family Residential Stormwater Rates:

	TIER 1 25% of homes	TIER 2 50% of homes	TIER 3 25% of homes
Impervious surface area	Less than 3,000 sq. ft.	3,000 to 4,300 sq. ft.	More than 4,300 sq. ft.
2020 quarterly stormwater fee	$29.50	$36	$46.50
2020 annual total	$118	$144	$186

VILLAGE OF WILMETTE
STORMWATER ACTION PLAN

What incentives does the Village offer to reduce stormwater runoff?

The Village established a Stormwater Incentive Program to encourage property owners to install stormwater management best practices, including rain gardens, rain barrels, downspout disconnections and other green infrastructure measures. Any property owner is eligible to apply for a stormwater incentive, with a limited number of incentives awarded on a first-come, first-served basis each year. To apply, property owners must fill out a permit application and acknowledgment form (available online or at Village Hall). Incentives will be distributed as one-time payments covering 50% of the construction cost of the project up to the limit assigned to the type of project:

Group A: 50% up to $1,300
Rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable pavement and more

Group B: 50% up to $5,000
Sump pump / downspout disconnection + re-route and more

For more details and FAQs, visit wilmette.com.

How is a property's impervious surface area determined?

The Village hired a geospatial analyst to calculate the impervious surface area – including building footprints, driveways, patios and the like – of each parcel using aerial imagery. Using these measurements, the Village sorted single-family residential properties into three tiers (see reverse). After extensive evaluation of options, the Village Board concluded that a three-tiered fee schedule based on impervious surface area was the most practical and reasonable means of fairly distributing costs to fund this large infrastructure investment.

Can I appeal my stormwater utility fee?

Yes. If you are concerned that there has been a billing error or that your property's impervious surface tier assignment is inaccurate, you may appeal your fee by filling out a Stormwater Utility Fee Adjustment Form (available online: wilmette.com/download/Stormwater-Utility-Adjustment-Form.pdf).

Rain garden, photo courtesy of the Center for Neighborhood Technology

How will the stormwater fee be administered for multi-family and non-residential properties?

Commercial properties, multi-family properties, houses of worship and private educational institutions will be assessed the stormwater utility fee beginning in the second quarter of 2020 because the Village is currently finalizing the credit and incentive program for these property types . The second quarter water bill for these property types will include stormwater utility fees for quarter one and quarter two combined. The fee for these property types will be calculated based on each property's individual impervious surface area measurement (rather than a tiered structure). The formula for this calculation is as follows: fixed fee of $40 per year + $104 per 3,590 square feet of impervious area.

Questions?

For stormwater utility fee questions, please contact stormwater@wilmette.com.

Connect with the Village!

Want to get the latest updates on the Neighborhood Storage Improvement Project? Curious what events are coming up in Wilmette this weekend? Sign up for weekly E-News and connect with us on social media!

wilmette.com/connect

THE VILLAGE OF Wilmette EST. 1872