



STORMWATER UTILITY RATES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE UTILITY RATES?

Utility rates support the continued efforts to increase the capacity and reliability of the City's water resources, sanitation and stormwater operations, maintenance and infrastructure. Revenues from rates are directly tied to the costs of the specific utility they support. Revenues from Stormwater rates only support the cost of Stormwater functions, Water Resources rates only support Water Resources functions, and Sanitation rates only support Sanitation functions. Utility rates are evaluated on an annual basis, with any required adjustments to rates typically going into effect on October 1.

WHY DO I PAY FOR STORMWATER SERVICE?

Stormwater fees support the Clean Water Act of 1972. Fees are directly related to stormwater functions and assist with planning, operations and maintenance of stormwater systems. This controls flooding, enhances water quality and manages stormwater. It also manages environmental impact of stormwater pollution and provides adequate flood protection.

WHAT IS AN IMPERVIOUS SURFACE?

An impervious surface is any surface that does not allow water to seep into the ground. For example, roofing and driveways.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MY STORMWATER RATE?

The City will be implementing a tiered billing structure for stormwater rates to single-family properties. Currently, all single-family properties are charged \$11.00 per month, and all non-single-family properties are charged based on their square footage of impervious surface area, or area that does not allow water to seep into the ground. This new tiered structure will distribute costs to single-family properties based on the amount of square feet of impervious surface area on their property.

Each single-family property will be assigned to the appropriate tier based on analysis of infrared aerial photography that distinguishes hard, impervious surfaces (like roofing and driveways) from areas that can absorb stormwater (like lawns and gardens). This analysis of impervious area was conducted for all properties in the City, including non-single-family properties, and is a one-time assessment. However, properties will be reassessed with any permit issued that would impact the impervious surface area of a property.



STORMWATER UTILITY RATES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PRELIMINARY SINGLE-FAMILY IMPERVIOUS AREA TIERS & RATES

	MINIMUM IMPERVIOUS SURFACE AREA	MAXIMUM IMPERVIOUS SURFACE AREA	MONTHLY RATE
TIER 1	1 sq. ft.	1,600 sq. ft.	\$5.00
TIER 2	1,601 sq. ft.	3,200 sq. ft.	\$10.00
TIER 3	3,201 sq. ft.	4,800 sq. ft.	\$16.00
TIER 4	4,801+ sq. ft.		\$24.00

Example of Single-Family Property Fee Calculation:

Amount of impervious area = 1,800 square feet

Tier classification = Tier 2

Monthly stormwater rate = \$10.00

HOW CAN I REVIEW MY IMPERVIOUS AREA AND PRELIMINARY STORMWATER RATE?

Starting April 15, you will have access to the **Stormwater Review and Appeals Portal** at stpete.org/ratechanges. You will be able to view your impervious area and submit an appeal for reassessment if desired. Directions will be available to you within the portal on how to search your property. The City will be hosting public meetings to walk through the portal and appeals process.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

April 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Willis S. Johns Rec Center
6635 Dr. Martin L King Jr St N

April 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
J. W. Cate Rec Center
5801 22nd Ave N

April 29, 6:30-8 p.m.
Childs Park Rec Center
4301 13th Ave S

April 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Lake Vista Rec Center
1401 62nd Ave S

April 25, 6:30-8 p.m.
Campbell Park Rec Center
601 14th St S

May 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
The Sunshine Center
330 5th St N

WILL THIS IMPACT CONDO OWNERS?

Impact to condo owners depends on the way utility billing is setup with the homeowner or condo association. If a community uses a master meter and includes utility fees in association fees, the change to the amount of association fees charged to condo owners is at the discretion of the association. If a condo owner has an individual meter and pays utilities directly to the City, the change in monthly payment will be directly tied to the impervious area and rate change.



STORMWATER UTILITY RATES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ABOUT COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES?

Non-single-family properties (i.e. commercial properties) will continue to be assessed a fee based on the number of Single-Family Residential Units (SFRU's) their impervious area represents. One SFRU is equal to the impervious surface area of a typical single-family property in the City, which has been preliminarily determined to be 2,388 square feet of impervious surface area.

The number of SFRU's that a commercial property represents will be multiplied by the stormwater rate per SFRU.

Example of SFRU Calculation (preliminary numbers):

1 SFRU = 2,388 square feet of impervious surface area

Monthly rate per SFRU of \$10.00 (preliminary, subject to change)

Commercial Property has 23,880 square feet of impervious surface

$23,880 \text{ square feet of impervious area of the property} / 2,388 \text{ square feet per SFRU} = 10 \text{ SFRU's}$

$10 \text{ SFRU's} \times \$10.00 = \$100.00 \text{ monthly stormwater utility fee}$

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR FINALIZING THE FEES AND HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED?

City Council conducts a first reading of the proposed rate ordinance on **September 5, 2019** and consider the proposed rates for final adoption following a public hearing on **September 19, 2019**. Upon adoption, rates will become effective as of October 1, 2019. The adopted changes will be noted in your utility bill.

Questions? Email the Stormwater Tier Rate Program at stormwater.appeals@stpete.org or call 727-893-7280.