



April 27, 2021

Residents of Lowell

Re: Proposed Stormwater Utility Fee

ERU's: 1 Estimated Monthly Fee: \$6.75

What is a Stormwater Utility Fee?

The City of Lowell is responsible for managing stormwater within the corporate limits of the City due to the State of North Carolina's MS4 Stormwater Program. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program is **mandated under the federal Clean Water Act**. An NPDES MS4 permit is required for every MS4 owner or operator that has jurisdiction in a U.S. Census Bureau designated Urbanized Area. The City of Lowell is one of those areas. This MS4 permit includes operating and maintaining the City's stormwater infrastructure, investigating flooding problems and improving stormwater quality within the community. In order to provide these services that are mandated by the State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Lowell has created a new Stormwater Utility Fee that all Lowell utility customers will pay to fund these required services.

Between July and August 2021, you will receive your first stormwater utility bill, which will appear as a new charge on your existing City of Lowell utility bill.

Understanding Your Bill

Stormwater utility fees are based on the amount of impervious area on your property, which includes surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, patios, sidewalks or any other hard surfaces that do not allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground.

For residential properties, it is estimated, that a flat fee of \$6.75 per month is charged for each property.

What is an ERU?

For all non-residential properties, the proposed billing amount is \$6.75 per month for every 2,827 square feet, 1 Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), of impervious surface area on your property. This includes commercial, industrial or any other property that is not a residential property.

An ERU represents the average level of impervious area found on residential properties in the City of Lowell. This average, 2,827 square feet, was determined by a 3rd party measuring the impervious surfaces on 100 residential properties and dividing that number by 100. The ERU in turn is used as a billing unit for properties other than residential. The imperviousness on these properties is measured and divided by 2,827 square feet to determine the number of billing units, or ERUs, on the property. For example, a property that has 8,481 square feet is divided by 2,827 (Lowell's ERU) square feet. This equals 3, therefore

that property has 3 ERUs and will be billed $3 \times \$6.75 = \$20.25/\text{month}$. Again, residential customers will only be billed one ERU per month. The minimum stormwater utility fee to be charged to any property in Lowell is one ERU.

Workshops

The City will conduct two workshops at the following dates and times on the stormwater utility program.

Thursday May 6, 2021 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Thursday May 20, 2021 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All workshops will be held at the Lowell Community Center, 503 W. First Street, Lowell, NC.

Customer Service

If you have any questions about the stormwater utility fee, please visit the City's Stormwater Management page online at <http://lowellinc.com/248/Stormwater-Management>. If you have additional questions about the stormwater utility fee, please call the City's stormwater utility fee assistance line at (704) 824-3518 or submit a submission to <https://www.lowellinc.com/FormCenter/Public-Works-11/Report-An-IssuePollution-Regarding-Storm-55> and a City representative will assist you.