

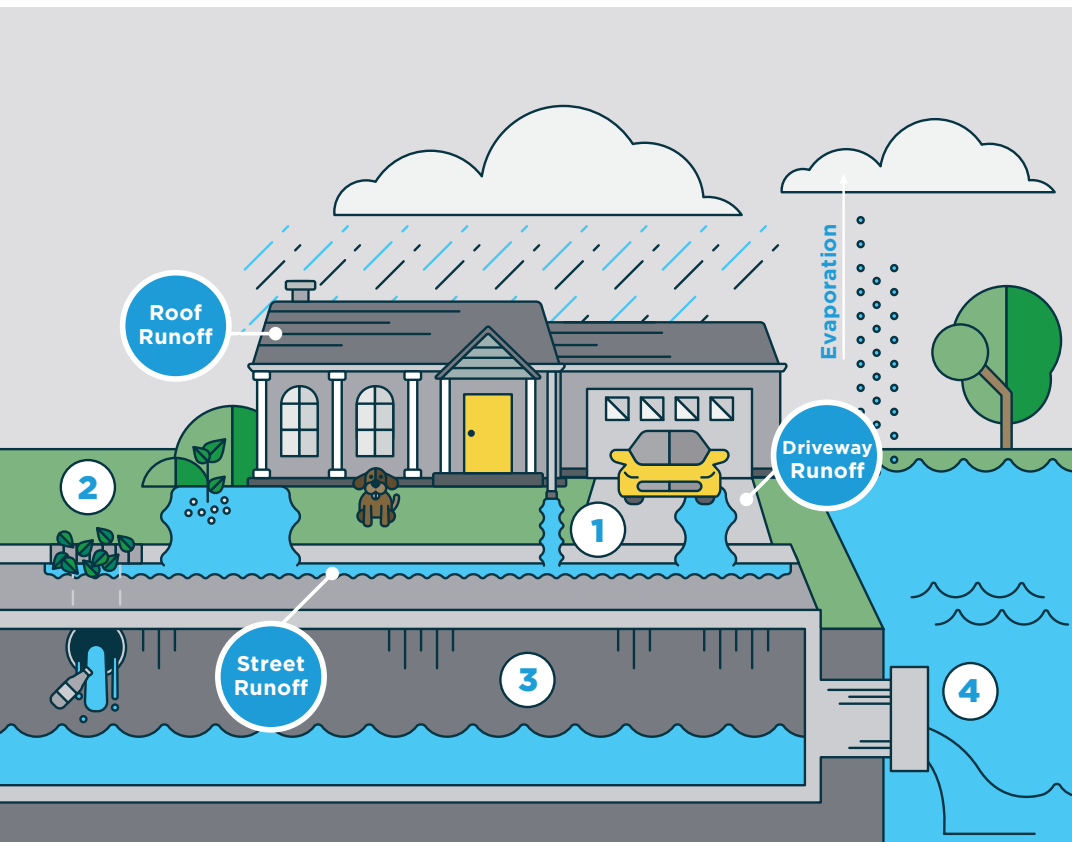


Fairfax's Plan to Improve How It Manages Stormwater and Flooding

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or other precipitation that does not soak into the ground. It flows off streets, parking lots, construction sites and neighborhoods where it is channeled into the city's system of pipes, ditches, or other flood control facilities and waterways. As stormwater flows over paved and hard surfaces, it collects trash, sediment, and chemicals (like motor oil and fertilizer) that pollute local waterways.

A properly functioning stormwater system can help prevent flooding, keep our streets and neighborhoods clear of debris, and keep our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay healthy.



- 1 Property Runoff from Impervious Surfaces**
Runoff picks up pet waste, fertilizers, motor oil, detergents, chemicals, and litter.
- 2 Runoff Collection**
Runoff flows through curbs, gutters, drainage pipes, and culverts.
- 3 Runoff Management**
Basins, swales, detention ponds, etc. are used to slow down and infiltrate runoff and minimize contamination load as stormwater returns to streams and rivers.
- 4 Runoff Returns to Waterways**
The City is responsible for maintaining natural channels and flood and levy systems in waterways.

How is the City's stormwater management currently funded?

Fairfax City property owners currently support the City's stormwater operations through their real estate tax bill. Three cents of the bill are dedicated to fund stormwater and an additional 2.7 cents are contributed from the General Fund for a total of 5.7 cents. This helps fund operations and maintenance costs and projects that help the City comply with regulations. All properties in the City generate stormwater runoff, but at this time, not all properties contribute to its fund. Moving to a stormwater utility fee will assure all properties pay into the City's stormwater services.



What is the City planning to do differently?

The City is planning to create a stormwater utility, which will accomplish two things.

1 Create Dedicated Funding Source

It will provide a dedicated funding source for operations and maintenance of the existing stormwater infrastructure and any new projects needed to reduce the impacts stormwater runoff has on our City.

2 Equitably Allocate Costs

It will more equitably distribute the cost of stormwater service to all properties based on their stormwater runoff impact, and would include currently untaxed properties.

Will this change how stormwater is funded?

Yes, instead of paying for stormwater through the real estate tax, property owners will be charged a fee based on the stormwater runoff their property generates. The City plans to use the amount of each property's impervious (hard) surfaces as the basis for the fee because impervious surfaces create the most stormwater runoff. The more impervious surface a property has, the greater the stormwater fee will be for that property. This fee will show up as a separate line item on the real estate tax bill in June of 2022.

Anticipated timing for the new fee



Late 2021

Public Hearings on the creation of a stormwater utility begin



June 2022

Tax bills arrive in mailboxes with new stormwater fee for January through June



December 2022

Tax bills arrive with new stormwater fee for July through December

Questions? Contact the City of Fairfax Department of Public Works at 703 273 6073 or email stormwaterutility@fairfaxva.gov. You can also provide your input and sign up for e-mail updates from the City when news releases, public meetings, or other City communications on the SWU development effort are released at www.engage.fairfaxva.gov.



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