

Answers to Your Questions About STORMWATER

What's New with LaVergne Utilities?

The City of LaVergne has established a new Stormwater Utility. The new utility will allow the city to address stormwater problems associated with both the maintenance of infrastructure and compliance with the NPDES MS4 Phase II Stormwater Permit. Revenues from the Stormwater Utility will be earmarked specifically for LaVergne's stormwater program.

What Is a Stormwater Utility?

The new utility will be a separate line item shown on the City's water bill. This utility allows fees to be collected and used to address maintenance, flooding problems, and improve water quality by reducing stormwater pollution..

Why a New Utility?

In growing cities like LaVergne, problems arise from uncontrolled stormwater runoff and discharges. Flat terrain and an inadequate drainage system increasingly compound the serious problems associated with heavy rains. The resulting stormwater accumulates in many areas of the city, causing nuisance flooding and possible threats to public health and safety.

Flooding is only part of the problem. The rain that falls on our streets runs off and carries with it pollutants such as oil, gasoline, and heavy metals. Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are washed from lawns and other green space. With the passage of time, these pollutants build up in the waterways causing significant environmental damage to our lakes, creeks, and streams.

What Is the City Currently Doing about These Problems?

Currently, the city funds their stormwater efforts, including collection system maintenance, repair, and replacement, from the city's General Fund. Due to the high demand on the General Fund over the past several years, the city has not been able to set aside enough funds to adequately address all stormwater needs. Although the city has done a good job managing the existing program on a limited budget, new regulations present additional financial burden to the city requiring additional funding.

By establishing a stormwater utility, the city will be able to take a more aggressive approach to stormwater management. The additional funds raised through the utility fee will allow the city to provide an increased level of system maintenance and repair, as well as enable the city to construct additional capital improvement projects.

Why Is This Issue Being Addressed at This Time?

On October 29, 1999, the US EPA issued new stormwater regulations that require communities with populations under 100,000 to control water pollution caused by stormwater runoff. Known as the EPA Phase II stormwater rule, these

regulations require communities to implement municipal stormwater programs that will reduce stormwater pollutant discharges to the “maximum extent practicable.”

The EPA has listed six control measures that communities must implement as part of any municipal stormwater management program. In addition to meeting the city’s current stormwater needs, LaVergne’s new stormwater utility will provide the city with the tools necessary to meet the new regulation requirements.

- | EPA Phase II Stormwater Minimum Control Measures | |
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| 1. | Public education and outreach on stormwater |
| 2. | Public involvement and participation |
| 3. | Illicit discharge detection and elimination |
| 4. | Construction site stormwater runoff control |
| 5. | Post- Construction site stormwater management in new development and redevelopment |
| 6. | Pollution prevention/good |

When Will the Utility Be Started?

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen has adopted the ordinance for a Stormwater Management User Fee. Property owners should see this fee on their August 2005 water bill.

How Much Will It Cost?

Under the new utility, every homeowner, as well as condos and apartments, will pay a flat rate of \$3.50 per month.

Non-residential properties (including stores, city facilities, industries, schools, and churches) will be charged by “equivalent residential units” (ERUs). An ERU is equivalent to the impervious surface area of the average LaVergne residential property (3,181 sq.ft.). Impervious surfaces are those that do not absorb water such as roofs, driveways, and parking lots.

Why Should I Pay? I Don’t Have a Flooding Problem!

You may not have a problem on your property or in your neighborhood, but the runoff from your property contributes to the city’s overall stormwater system. Everyone who lives and works in LaVergne benefits when stormwater problems are well managed. We all suffer if these problems persist.

Where Can I Go For More Information?

If you would like additional information on the stormwater utility program or have specific concerns about stormwater issues, please contact the City at 615-213-8700.

