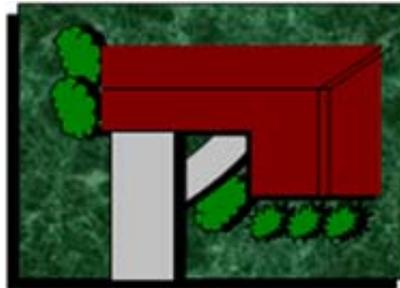


The City of Altoona has recently established a Stormwater Utility. A stormwater utility is the most equitable way to cover the costs of stormwater services provided throughout the city. The City of Altoona has required stormwater programs that must be implemented under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This was an unfunded mandate. There are six measurable goals outlined in the NPDES permit. These include:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control
5. Post- Construction Storm Water Management
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

To assist in funding the stormwater program, fees have been established. Fees are based on the amount of impervious area that properties contain. Impervious surface area is an area which prevents or impedes the infiltration of stormwater into the soil as it enters in natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious surface areas include, but are not limited to, rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, patios, parking lots, storage areas, compacted gravel surfaces and other surfaces which prevent or impede the natural infiltration of stormwater runoff which existed prior to development. The larger the impervious area, the more stormwater a property contributes to the stormwater system. Those who contribute more, pay a larger stormwater utility fee.

Figure 1. Impervious surfaces include rooftops, sidewalks to the home and driveways .



The city staff worked with a resource group of residents and business owners to provide input on the utility and establishment of fees. The fees will be based on an equivalent residential unit (ERU) which is the average amount of impervious surface on a residential property. To determine an ERU, 10% of the residential properties in Altoona were evaluated to determine the average amount of impervious surface on a residential property. This was calculated as 4,000 square feet. Therefore, 1 ERU = 4,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface. This will be used to calculate the fees that will be paid by commercial businesses with larger amounts of impervious surfaces.

Fees

Residential property will be assessed for 1 ERU. One ERU will cost \$3.00 per month and will be included on the monthly utility bill beginning on January 1, 2011.

Commercial businesses will be assessed \$3.00 per ERU. An ERU is 4,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface. For example, a business with 12,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface will be charged \$9 per month. The fee will be included on the monthly utility bill beginning on January 1, 2011.

Fee schedule:

Fiscal year 2010/2011: \$3.00 per ERU per month
Fiscal year 2011/2012: \$3.50 per ERU per month
Fiscal year 2012/2013: \$4.00 per ERU per month
Fiscal year 2013/2014: \$4.50 per ERU per month
Fiscal year 2014/2015: \$5.00 per ERU per month

The monthly rate for each fiscal year beyond 2014/2015 will be determined by resolution of the city council prior to July 1, 2014.