

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### **WHY DID THE CITY OF ARNOLD START A STORM WATER UTILITY?**

**EPA Regulations** (Phase II of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) **mandated** the **improvement** our community's **storm water services**.

For any program to be successful, it must be properly funded. Creating a **storm water utility assures** the necessary **funds** for the **storm water management program** will be available.

### **CAN THE STORM WATER FUNDS BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE?**

No, revenue generated by the **storm water utility fees** is **restricted** and will be held in a **separate account**. These revenues can **only be used** to fund the new **storm water control department** and related **storm water/erosion control projects**.

### **HOW DID THE CITY DECIDE ON THIS APPROACH?**

The City of Arnold, hired Black and Veatch to develop a storm water master plan. Several public forums were held to gain input from stakeholders. After considering a number of options, Black and Veatch recommended the formation of a storm water utility that would be responsible for all phases of storm water management and erosion control.

They recommended a user fee that would be assessed against all properties within the city to fund the storm water utility.

### **WHY CREATE A STORM WATER CONTROL DEPARTMENT?**

The City of Arnold has established a storm water control department that will be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Storm Water Master Plan. Creating a separate department will assure that city resources and efforts are continuously directed toward solving storm water problems.

### **WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE STORM WATER CONTROL DEPT?**

The Storm Water Control Department will be responsible for inspecting the construction of stormwater pipes, ditches, inlets, catch basins and detention facilities for compliance with city regulations. The department will conduct periodic inspections of all private and publicly owned stormwater control facilities to assure the proper maintenance and upkeep of these facilities. The department will respond to complaints from the public.

### **WHO WILL BE CHARGED THE FEE?**

A user fee that is charged against **all residential and nonresidential properties** within the City of Arnold **will fund the stormwater control program**. All revenue from this utility fee will be deposited into a Watershed Stewardship Program Fund and can only be used for the stormwater control program.

### **WHEN WILL THE UTILITY FEE BE BILLED?**

The storm water utility fee will be charged on a monthly basis but will be billed quarterly. Bills will be mailed in January, April, July and October.

### **HOW WAS THE RESIDENTIAL RATE DETERMINED?**

The rates were based upon the amount of impervious surface for properties within the city. Impervious surfaces are those improvements on a property such as roofs, driveways, and parking lots that no longer absorb rainwater. Black and Veatch conducted a study of all properties within the city to determine the amount of surface area that contributes to overall stormwater system.

Through random samplings, they determined the average single-family dwelling unit has 1,750 square feet of impervious surface that contributes stormwater. Stormwater user fees are established in relationship to this average runoff rate.

## **HOW WAS THE NONRESIDENTIAL RATE DETERMINED?**

The nonresidential runoff coefficient is an estimated factor determined by engineering studies, which relate to the potential runoff of stormwater based upon property classifications and improvements made to the property.

<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Runoff Coefficient %</b>
Single Family	Actual
Multi-family	.60-.75
Commercial	.60-.95
Industrial	.50-.90
Churches	.28-.38
Governmental	.28-.38
Non-profit Hospitals	.28-.38
Schools	.28-.38
Other	.28-.38
Parks	.10-.25
Public Facilities	.28-.38
Undeveloped Land	.10-.30
Parking	.70-.95
Public Utilities	.28-.38
Streets	.70-.95

## **WHAT WILL A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE PAY?**

The fee charged to single family residential property is \$3.00 per month, which is based on 1,750 square feet of impervious surface.

## **WHAT WILL APARTMENTS, CONDOS AND MOBILE HOMES PAY?**

The fee to be initially charged to multiple-family, apartments, mobile home parks, and attached homes is \$3.00 per dwelling unit per month until such time that the charge can be calculated based upon the specific runoff rates for the site using the formula for nonresidential properties.

## **WHAT WILL A NONRESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PAY?**

The fee to be charged a nonresidential property is calculated by multiplying the gross area of the property by runoff coefficient for the land use and dividing that product by the 1,750 square feet of impervious surface. The amount is then multiplied time \$3.00.

## **AN EXAMPLE OF A NONRESIDENTIAL FEE:**

Nonresidential =  $\frac{\text{Gross area of property} \times \text{Stormwater runoff coefficient}}{\text{Runoff Rate} \times 1,750 \text{ square feet of impervious surface}}$

Charge = Nonresidential Runoff Rate x \$3.00

For example: Commercial property that is one acre in size.

Gross area of property = 43,560 square feet x 1 = 43,560 sq ft

Runoff coefficient for Commercial is .75

$\frac{43,560 \text{ square feet} \times .75 \text{ coefficient}}{1,750 \text{ square feet}} = \frac{32,670}{1,750} = 18.69$

18.69 x \$3.00 = \$56.07 per month

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

Any person disagreeing with the calculation of the stormwater user fee may appeal the determination to the director of public works. Such appeal must be filed within sixty days and include a survey prepared by a registered surveyor or registered engineer showing total property area and total impervious area. The director may request additional information from the appealing party. The decision of the director can be appealed to the city administrator. Such appeal must be submitted within thirty days of the decision of the director of public works and must cite the specific error made by the director.

## **STORM WATER CREDIT PROGRAM CAN REDUCE FEES**

Commercial and industrial properties may qualify for up to a 50% reduction of the storm water fees. To be eligible a property must have existing storm water control devices or install such devices. For additional information on the credit program contact the Public Works Department at 636-282-2386.

## **NEED FURTHER INFORMATION?**

Contact the Public Works Department at 636 282-2386.