



# City of Mt. Juliet



## Background

In November of 2022, the City Commission approved an ordinance establishing a stormwater utility fee program to begin to address the long standing flooding issues that are impacting our citizens and to comply with Federal and State Clean Water Act requirements to improve the quality of water in local streams. Based on drainage and flooding complaints received in the past, the City has developed a stormwater master plan to identify potential solutions to known flooding and drainage issues. However, sufficient funding is not in place to implement these proposed projects that would improve the quality of life for citizens in Mt. Juliet. Also, Federal law requires that the City establish an appropriate level of funding for mandated water quality improvement programs. Many local governments in Middle Tennessee, including Gallatin, Goodlettsville, White House, Portland, Lebanon, Hendersonville, and Nashville, have already implemented similar fee programs. Included in this flyer are answers to some frequently asked questions about the approved stormwater utility fee.

***A community that embraces growth, while maintaining its heritage, character, charm and vitality, must develop and maintain infrastructure that promotes a high quality of life and protects the safety, health and well-being of all its citizens.***

## Contact

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## Stormwater Utility Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q. What is stormwater runoff?

**A.** Stormwater runoff is the water that flows off roofs, driveways, parking lots, streets, and other hard surfaces during rain storms. The runoff that is not absorbed into the ground pours into ditches, culverts, catch basins, and storm sewers. It does not receive any treatment before entering the streams and lakes.

### Q. Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

**A.** As precipitation falls on undeveloped areas, it is primarily absorbed into the ground or slowly runs off into streams, rivers, or other water bodies. However, development resulting in rooftops and paved areas prevent water from being absorbed and creates a faster rate and cumulative amount of runoff. This development often causes localized flooding or water quality issues.

### Q. Why has the City chosen to implement a separate fee for stormwater management?

**A.** By establishing a dedicated funding source through stormwater fees, the City can ensure that the revenue required to manage and to maintain this important system is available. The dedicated funds will be used to implement key flooding improvement projects and to increase the level and frequency of repairs and improvements necessary to support the aging infrastructure in Mt. Juliet, as well as to meet increasing Federal and State mandated stormwater quality improvement requirements.

### Q. What is the basis for the fee that is charged?

**A.** The stormwater utility fee is based on the square footage of impervious surface area (i.e. hard surfaces that generate stormwater runoff) on your lot. In essence, customers pay a fee related to the amount of runoff generated from their site, which is directly related to the amount of impervious surface on the site.

### Q. When will the stormwater fee take effect?

**A.** The stormwater charge will appear on your monthly Mt. Juliet Sewer Bill starting in April 2023.

### Q. What will it cost me?

**A.** All residential dwelling units will be charged a base rate of \$5.40 each month. If the property has multiple dwelling units, the property will be charged the base rate for each dwelling unit on the lot.

### Q. How are non-residential property fees determined and billed?

**A.** All non-residential properties will be billed at a rate based on their impervious area as well. To determine the monthly fee, divide the total impervious area of your property by 3,050 square feet (or one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)) to obtain the number of ERUs and multiply by the base rate (\$5.40 per month per ERU).



*For more information, visit the City's stormwater utility information website at <https://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/227/Water-QualityStormwater-Division> or scan the code at left with your smartphone.*