

**Department of Public Works
Stormwater Management Utility Information**



**Informational Meeting – Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building
900 Main Street Room #229
Millis, MA 02054**



TOWN OF MILLIS, MA

UNDERSTANDING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

FALL 2017

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

The Town's **stormwater management program** is changing, like hundreds of other communities in Massachusetts, due to new EPA environmental regulations that increase compliance requirements. After consulting with experts and the community, the Town has created a Warrant Article for the Fall Town Meeting that will develop a **Stormwater Utility** to fund its stormwater management program.

Highlights:

- A Utility will streamline municipal operations, provide transparency into spending, and promote effective infrastructure management and use of Town resources
- The by-law will allow for the creation of a dedicated fund for stormwater management
- **Informational meeting (October 19)** and Stormwater Utility by-law **vote at Town Meeting (November 6)**

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

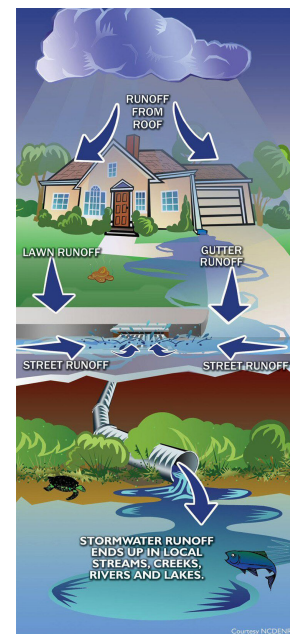
Stormwater runoff is created when precipitation flows over **impervious surfaces** which prevent water from draining into the ground. Impervious surfaces include rooftops, driveways, and parking lots. Stormwater runoff transports pollutants like bacteria, sediment, and petroleum into the Town's drainage system and local waterbodies without treatment. Pollution from stormwater runoff impacts wildlife, recreation, and the water quality of local rivers and ponds. Town services required by regulations will reduce pollutant loading from stormwater.



Town of Millis' Street Sweeper

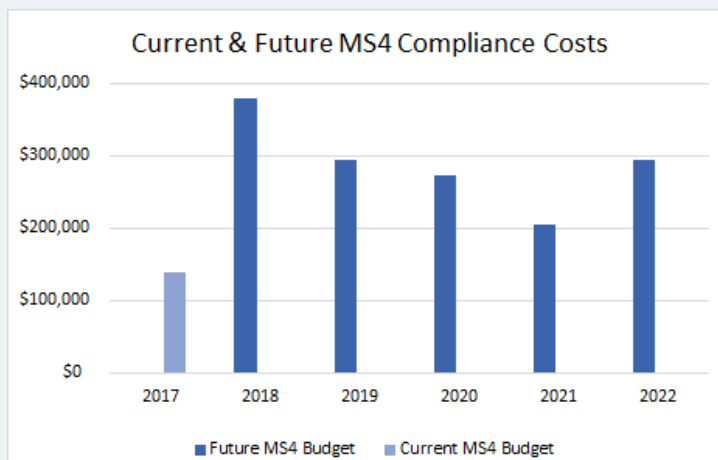
Stormwater management services include:

- Construction & maintenance of infrastructure
- Street sweeping & leaf litter clean-up
- Catch basin cleaning
- Water sampling & removal of illegal tie-ins
- Inspection of construction sites
- Stream restoration & stabilization



Typical Stormwater Runoff Cycle

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COSTS WILL INCREASE



Stormwater management regulations in the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit will require the Town to reduce pollution from its drainage system, invest in its aging drainage infrastructure, and report on compliance activities each year.

THE CHALLENGE: New regulations will increase costs for all Massachusetts communities with a MS4 Permit. The Town must take action now to build and sustain operations to remain in compliance with regulations.

OUR SOLUTION: Create a Stormwater Utility that will fund the Town's stormwater management program.

Questions & More Information:

Jim McKay, Public Works Deputy Director

w | http://www.millis.org/Pages/MillisMA_DPW/index
e | jmckay@millis.net p | 508.376.5424

WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY?

The Town's stormwater management program is currently funded through taxes under the **General Fund**, which finances multiple departments. Many communities are transitioning funding from for stormwater programs to a Stormwater Utility.

A **Stormwater Utility** is a fund specifically dedicated to stormwater related costs.

The stormwater utility bill will be relative to the amount of impervious area on your property instead of property value.

Residents will know where their money is being spent!

THE CHALLENGE:

- Current funding prohibits effective planning and management of stormwater infrastructure
- Current stormwater program obscures budget needs and spending across multiple departments
- Compliance fines are expensive, up to \$25,000 per day per violation, so the Town must take action now



CURRENT FUNDING:
Multiple departments
funded - diluted impacts



PROPOSED FUNDING:
Dedicated stormwater
fund - prioritized spending

OUR SOLUTION:

- Effective infrastructure management, just like Water and Sewer Enterprise funds
- Increase transparency in funding needs and allocation of resources
- Create a sustainable mechanism for funding required stormwater management services

HOW WILL THE PROPOSED STORMWATER UTILITY AFFECT ME?



Will this impact my property tax?

A: Stormwater Utility bills are unrelated to property value

Who gets billed?

A: All property owners (residential, commercial, and organizations) in Millis with developed land will receive a bill

How much is a Stormwater Utility bill?

A: Bills for a typical single family home are estimated at <\$100 per parcel per year

How is the Stormwater Utility bill amount determined?

A: The billed amount is determined by the amount of impervious area on a parcel

Can I reduce my bill?

A: A system of credits will be developed with public input following Town Meeting

What is the non-payment penalty?

A: Unpaid utility bills will result in liens with compounded interest

What if the Warrant Article does not pass the November Town Meeting?

A: The Town will fund its Stormwater Management Program by revisiting the budget

LEARN MORE



Attend the next informational meeting to learn more about the Stormwater Utility

OCTOBER 19, 2017

7:30 PM at Millis Town Hall Room 229
900 Main Street

NOVEMBER 6, 2017 - TOWN MEETING

7:30 PM at MS/HS Auditorium
245 Plain Street

For more information on Millis' Stormwater Management Program:

Jim McKay, Public Works Deputy Director
e | jmckay@millis.net p | 508.376.5424
w | http://www.millis.org/Pages/MillisMA_DPW/index

VOTE!

On November 6, 2017, we invite you to vote on the Stormwater Utility.
Thank you for caring about Stormwater in Millis!



Introduction

After conducting a feasibility study, The Town of Millis created a Warrant Article that will develop a Stormwater Utility to fund its stormwater management program. The Town's stormwater management program is currently funded through taxes under the General Fund, which finances multiple departments. Due to rising costs for stormwater management and new environmental regulations that increase compliance requirements, the Town will no longer be able to fund the program with the existing budget. To remain in compliance with stormwater regulations and maintain drainage infrastructure, the Town will need to revisit the budget or fund the program through a dedicated Stormwater Utility. The proposed Stormwater Utility is similar to existing Water and Sewer Enterprise funds and will streamline municipal operations, provide transparency into spending, and promote effective infrastructure management.

Glossary of Key Terms

Credit means a reduction in the amount of a Stormwater Utility fee charged to the owner of a particular property where that property owner owns, maintains and operates on-site or off-site stormwater management systems or facilities, or provides services or activities that reduce or mitigate the Town's cost of providing stormwater management services, in accordance with the Town's approved credit policy.

Developable shall mean a parcel of land, as designated by the Assessor, which can be altered from its natural state to include impervious surface area.

Developed means property altered from its natural state by construction or installation of greater than or equal to two hundred (200) square feet of impervious surfaces.

Drainage system shall mean natural and manmade channels, swales, ditches, swamps, rivers, streams, creeks, wetlands, branches, reservoirs, ponds, drainage ways, inlets, catch basins, gutters, pipes, culverts, bridges, head walls, storm sewers, lakes, and other physical works, properties, and improvements that transfer, control, convey or otherwise influence the movement of stormwater runoff.

Dwelling unit means the individual, private premises contained in any building intended, whether occupied or not, as the residence for one household, regardless of the number of individuals in the household. A building may contain more than one dwelling units.

Enterprise Fund is a separate account for the fees and for utility operation, as allowed by MGL Chapter 44, Section 54F ½.

Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) shall mean the measure of the average amount of impervious surface on all single family residential parcels in the Town of Millis used in assessing fees for each parcel of developed property.

General Laws means the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Impervious surface includes any material or structure on or above the ground that prevents water infiltrating the underlying soil. Impervious surfaces include, without limitation, roads, paved parking lots, rooftops, buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways, and other surfaces which prevent or impede the natural infiltration of stormwater runoff which existed prior to development.



Non-Residential property means developed property that is not Single Family Residential or Multi-Family property as defined herein including, but not limited to such property as commercial and office buildings, public buildings and structures, industrial and manufacturing buildings, storage buildings and storage areas, parking lots, parks, recreation properties, tennis courts, swimming pools, public and private schools and universities, research facilities and stations, hospitals and convalescent centers, airports, agricultural uses, water and wastewater treatment plants, and any other form of use not otherwise mentioned which is not a residential property.

Multi-Family property means developed property containing dwelling units except “single family” dwellings. Multi-Family properties shall include condominiums. Multi-Family properties shall not include developed property containing structures used primarily for nonresidential purposes (i.e. hotels, motels, retirement centers, nursing homes or assisted living homes or properties designated as “mixed use” properties by the Assessor).

Single Family Residential (SFR) property means developed property containing dwellings consisting of one (1) or more rooms with a bathroom and kitchen facilities designed for occupancy by one (1) family and shall include single family houses and/or single family units.

Stormwater is surface water that results from precipitation and that travels over natural or developed land surfaces to discharge into a drainage system or surface water body. Stormwater includes stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface water runoff and drainage.

Stormwater management services mean all services provided by the Town which relate to the:

- (a) Transfer, control, conveyance or movement of stormwater runoff through the Town;
- (b) Maintenance, repair and replacement of stormwater management systems and facilities owned, controlled, or maintained by the Town;
- (c) Planning, development, design and construction of additional stormwater management systems and facilities to meet current and anticipated needs;
- (d) Regulation, oversight, and enforcement of the use of stormwater management services, systems and facilities;
- (e) Compliance with applicable State and Federal stormwater management regulations and permit requirements including, but not limited to, public education and outreach. Stormwater management services may address the quality of stormwater runoff as well as the quantity thereof.

Stormwater management systems and facilities mean those natural and manmade channels, swales, ditches, rivers, streams, creeks, branches, reservoirs, ponds, drainage ways, inlets, catch basins, pipes, headwalls, storm sewers, outfalls and other physical works, properties and improvements which transfer, control, convey, detain, retain, treat or otherwise influence the movement of stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Utility fee means the periodic user fee imposed pursuant to this by-law by the Town of Millis which will be dedicated to the provision of public stormwater management services.

Undevelopable land is all land including crops, forest land, pasture, conservation or recreation as designated by the Assessor.

Undeveloped land shall mean all land that is not altered from its natural state to an extent that results in greater than two hundred (200) square feet of impervious surface area.