

Stormwater Fees

Revised rates (below) effective July 1, 2019

Residential (1 - 4 family dwellings) = \$ 100.00 per year (*billed quarterly at \$25.00 / per qtr.*)
All other properties = \$0.047 per square foot of impervious surface area, *except that if the square footage charge multiplied by the total impervious area of the parcel equals a sum less than \$150.00, then the annual fee shall be \$150.00*

The volume of stormwater runoff entering the City's storm drainage system is directly correlated to impervious areas (i.e., rooftops, parking lots, driveways, etc.).

In 2006, Newton instituted stormwater fees to fund necessary maintenance of our drainage system, which consists of 320 miles of pipes, 12,750 catch basins, 5852 manholes, 2 Pump stations, 384 drainage outfalls (discharge points) and 14 miles of streams. Our stormwater rates provide a stable, adequate and equitable source of funding to maintain and improve the City's vast stormwater infrastructure system and protect our natural water bodies (e.g., Charles River, Crystal Lake and numerous streams) from potentially harmful pollutants in stormwater runoff. Other benefits include technical assistance with stormwater management questions and educational programs for residents and schools.

Stormwater fees are noted on your water / sewer bills. Like water and sewer charges, stormwater charges collected by the City are placed into an enterprise fund that can only be used for the designated utility. In the thirteen years since the fee was introduced, we have been able to shift from reactive to proactive and planned maintenance of our drainage assets. We have completed many capital projects, including: drainage improvements on Ashmont Avenue, Webster, Rowe and Dedham Streets, inspections of all our road culverts, design and replacement of the Hammond Brook culvert next the MBTA Green line, several projects around Crystal Lake, pond dredging, and the development of a 20-year Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plan. Funds can also be used to obtain state and federal grants for stormwater projects, where matching funds are required to receive an award.

In addition to our infrastructure improvement needs, we are also required to meet numerous goals to reduce the pollution in stormwater runoff collected by our drainage system and discharged into the Charles River and our brooks. The requirements are outlined in our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available here: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-small-ms4-general-permit>. A copy of our Notice of Intent and Annual Reports are posted on the City's stormwater website <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/dpw/water/stormwater.asp>. Please visit our website for additional information and resources.

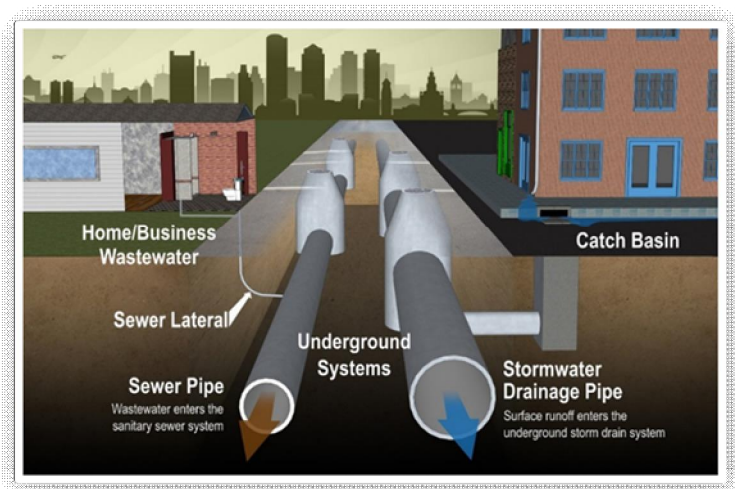


Figure 1: Schematic of Sewer versus Stormwater Drain Pipes