

Town of Chelmsford
Department of Public Works
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*Town of Chelmsford
DPW
Stormwater Division*

Stormwater Utility

General Information



If you have questions or concerns,
please Email
stormwater@townofchelmsford.us
Or call: 978-250-5228 ext. 5235



What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that “runs off” across the land instead of seeping into the ground. The runoff usually flows into the nearest stream, creek, wetland, river or lake. The runoff is not treated in any way and can become polluted.

Developed areas such as parking lots, buildings, roadways and other hardened “impervious surfaces” exist around Town. When it rains, water runs off these impervious surfaces and picks up pet waste, oil, sand, fertilizers, and other pollutants. The water then flows into gutters and storm drains which discharge directly into the nearest waterway. Polluted stormwater runoff is the single largest source of pollution to Chelmsford’s ponds and waterways.

What stormwater infrastructure does the Town own and maintain?

Stormwater is collected through our 4,500 catch basins and runs through more than 800 manholes, 95 miles of pipe, over 50 detention basins and 650 outfalls or discharge points. These systems discharge directly into local waterways, which are themselves a critical part of Chelmsford’s stormwater system.

Article 14 of the 2017 Spring Town Meeting was approved establishing an Enterprise Fund for Stormwater Management Operations.

In 2018, Fall Town Meeting approved the operating budget for the Enterprise Fund.

Why do we need a stormwater department?

In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new stormwater regulations. The Town of Chelmsford is required to file for a permit to allow the discharge of stormwater into water bodies around the Town. The new permit requires the Town to increase our level of maintenance, upgrade parts of the drainage system and begin monitoring stormwater outfalls.

Why is there a fee for stormwater?

The increased requirements to comply with EPA's newly unfunded Federal mandates are beyond the scope of the current DPW budget.

What are the benefits?

- ◇ The Town will meet all the terms and requirements of EPA's new permit.
- ◇ This will improve the quality of our waters, making them cleaner for swimming, drinking and fishing.
- ◇ We will develop a Stormwater Management Master Plan for long-range planning.
- ◇ The Town will provide regular drainage maintenance to instill a proactive approach, rather than a reactive approach.
- ◇ Long range planning of drainage projects will be more cost-effective.



Beginning in January 2019, property owners will see an additional line on their Sewer bill for Stormwater.

What properties will incur a fee?

The fee will apply to all parcels that have impervious cover. This will include residential and commercial properties as well as nonprofit and tax exempt properties.

Single-family houses will be assessed an **annual flat fee of \$40**. Multifamily households who receive individual Town of Chelmsford, DPW Sewer bills, will be assessed an annual flat fee of \$40. Some multifamily complexes and all non-residential properties are assessed an annual fee based on a tiered structure of impervious area which runs between \$250-\$8,000 annually. **These annual flat fees will be split in half and billed bi-annually on your Town of Chelmsford DPW Sewer bill.**

The tiers are listed on the Town's website at www.townofchelmsford.us/375/Stormwater

These fees are expected to increase as the stormwater program is established and the master plan becomes implemented. Credits may be offered in future years for those who take care of their stormwater by infiltrating it or treating it prior to discharging to a wetland, water-body or municipal system.



How can you help ?



By putting fewer pollutants on the land, stormwater will be cleaner as it flows into our lakes, rivers and the ocean.



Never pour or sweep anything down a storm drain. This includes pet waste, motor oil, paint, litter, leaves, and sand.

- * Do not block storm drains with refuse or debris.
- * Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
- * Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- * Compost your yard waste.
- * Avoid pesticides.
- * Do not over-water your lawn.
- * Reduce lawn size by planting rock gardens, shrubs and trees.
- * Pool water is only allowed in the drains if it has been dechlorinated. The chlorine level must be less than one ppm. Allow the water to stand for one week prior to draining. Also, make sure the pool is drained in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or erosion.
- * Aim your roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain barrel or rain garden.
- * Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway. If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn so that the water can seep into the soil, and use low-phosphate detergents in small amounts.
- * Check your car for leaks. Recycle motor oil, anti-freeze, tires, and batteries.
- * Pick up after your pet and dispose of droppings in the trash.
- * Maintain native vegetation along streams and lake-fronts.

*We hope you find this brochure helpful!
For more information on stormwater
Visit the Town's website
www.townofchelmsford.us/375/Stormwater*

