

Town of Danville Stormwater Utility

Background on Federal Unfunded Mandate for Stormwater Discharge

According to U.S. EPA, polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. Over land or via storm sewer systems, polluted runoff is discharged, often untreated, directly into local water bodies. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways.

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the NPDES Stormwater Program is a national program for addressing the non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges. These discharges adversely affect the quality of our nation's waters. The program uses the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting to require the implementation of controls that are designed to prevent harmful pollutants being washed by stormwater runoff into local water bodies.

MS4 Stormwater Program Unfunded Mandate Requirements

Operators of regulated municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) (which includes the Town of Danville) are required to have permit coverage through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Under the MS4 Stormwater Program, operators of regulated small MS4s are required to:

- Apply for NPDES permit coverage
- Develop a Stormwater Management Program which includes minimum control measures
- Implement the Stormwater Management Program using best management practices (BMPs)
- Develop measurable goals for the program
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the program

The legal documents to support this unfunded mandate are:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Phase II of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Rule 13 (327 IAC 15-13)

Without the funding to implement the requirements, MS4s must develop mechanisms to fulfill federally mandated objectives to treat stormwater. Danville has elected to create a Stormwater Utility to cover the cost of collecting, conveying, and managing stormwater.

Impervious Surfaces and Stormwater

Impervious surfaces and hardened surface areas prevent or limit the natural entry of water into the soil. Impervious surfaces include: rooftops, buildings, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, asphalt, concrete, other paving, driveways, compacted gravel, patios, etc.

Since rainwater cannot be absorbed by these surfaces, the water must be managed through a stormwater system to prevent flooding. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces is often polluted with automotive fluids, metals, sediment, and debris. This polluted stormwater runoff ends up in our streams, ditches, ponds, and other water bodies.

What is an ERU?

An “Equivalent Residential Unit”, or ERU, is a measure of the average amount of impervious surface area (ISA) for a single family residential property located in Danville. Much like a “kilowatt” serves as the basis

for electrical utility, the ERU is the base unit for a stormwater utility. One ERU for the Town of Danville is equal to 3,700 square feet of ISA.

Benefits of a Stormwater Utility

Revenue generated from the stormwater user fee will improve the Town in the following ways:

- Supplement drainage improvement projects.
- Minimize off-site sediment from construction sites.
- Provide education to the residents on water quality.
- Fund routine testing of water quality.
- Ensure ditch bank stabilization.
- Reduce sediment into our waterways.
- Enhance fish and wildlife communities.
- Reduce flooding.

Anticipated Capital Improvement Projects

Danville has a list of prioritizing stormwater improvement projects that have not been completed due to lack of funding. These projects will likely be funded by the Stormwater Utility. These projects include:

- Ditch cleaning and erosion repair from High Street to White Lick Creek
- Ditch cleaning and erosion repair from Kentucky Street to Tennessee Street
- Ditch cleaning along Tradition Lane
- Installation of a storm sewer along Heritage Drive
- Storm sewer along Cross Street
- Storm sewer in the area of Fairlane Street and Cook Avenue
- Storm sewer in the area of Mill Street and Kentucky Street

Operations, Maintenance, and Administration Costs

As part of the operation and maintenance of the stormwater system, Danville provides many services related to public education, construction and post-construction activity monitoring, and pollution detection. These services include:

- Stormwater education programs
- Outfall screening for illicit discharges
- Municipal litter pick-up
- Street sweeping/ leaf removal
- Catch basin cleaning
- Stormwater Hotline

Additional Information

The Town of Brownsburg pays \$5.00 per month per single-family residential parcel.
The Town of Plainfield pays \$4.00 per month per single-family residential parcel.