

# CITY OF LAFAYETTE

## W E T W E A T H E R P R O G R A M

### Stormwater Capital Improvement Program and User Fee

- When rain or snow falls in Lafayette, the precipitation runs off impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, streets and parking lots into the stormwater drainage system. The stormwater, which may be polluted with chemicals, litter, and sediment, flows from the storm sewer directly into local streams and rivers. With little or no treatment, polluted stormwater creates unhealthy conditions for human and aquatic life.
- Stormwater entering and exiting the city's storm sewers is regulated by the federal Clean Water Act and Indiana's General Storm Water Permit Rule (Rule 13). In 1999 under Rule 13, Lafayette was issued a joint National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- To meet NPDES Permit requirements, avoid costly fines, and complete drainage improvements the City of Lafayette established a dedicated stormwater revenue source, effective July 1, 2010. Stormwater runoff from properties—residential and non-residential—enters the city's storm sewers. A user fee allows the city to fund drainage and stormwater quality improvements throughout the community.
- In addition to NPDES Permit requirements, the stormwater program addresses necessary stormwater system improvements, expansion and drainage improvements. The user fee will fund the following high priority projects identified in the Stormwater Capital Program:
  - Valley Street Drainage Improvements
  - Elliott Ditch Stream Bank Restoration
  - Southside/30th Street Drainage Improvements
  - Rain Gardens & Rain Barrel Program
  - Armstrong Park Detention Basin Retrofit
  - Durkees Run East Improvements
  - Vinton Woods Detention Pond Rehabilitation
  - Orchard Heights Drainage Improvements
  - Outfall Repairs
- Approved October 5, 2009, and amended May 3, 2010, by the Lafayette Common Council, developed residential and non-residential property owners are assessed a stormwater user fee.
  - Residential User Fee: Residential property owners are assessed a flat \$4 monthly user fee based on the impervious surface area for an average residential parcel size, or an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). One ERU equals 3,200 square feet. In January 2011, the fee will increase to \$5 monthly.
  - Non-Residential User Fee: For non-residential property owners, the city calculates user fees based on actual measured impervious surface for a parcel. The minimum bill will be one ERU or \$4 monthly. In January 2011, the fee will increase to \$5 monthly.

The stormwater program is a service that benefits all properties contributing stormwater to the sewer conveyance system, so all property owners, tax exempt or not, are assessed a fee. An appeals process exists for those questioning the city's user fee calculations.

- In March 2009, 17 community members were invited by Mayor Roswarski to participate on the city's Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee. The committee assisted in formulating the user fee recommendation presented to the Lafayette Common Council.
- Information including the user fee calculations, and capital project information is available at [www.lafayette.in.gov](http://www.lafayette.in.gov) in the Wet Weather Program section of the Engineering page.

