

STORMWATER FAQ's

- 1. What is stormwater runoff?** Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snowmelt that drains off rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, roads and other man-made hard surfaces that prohibit the infiltration of rainfall or snowmelt into the ground. The stormwater then flows into the City drainage system. All developed properties in the City contribute stormwater runoff to the drainage system and in some cases, to recurring drainage problems. In addition to flooding problems, stormwater runoff washes chemicals, debris, trash and other pollutants into the drainage system and our local surface waters.
- 2. What does a stormwater program do?** A stormwater program maintains and improves the City's stormwater systems located within the public street rights-of-way including storm drains, catch basins, underground pipes, open channels, culverts and creeks.
- 3. How is the City of Lindsborg proposing to address expanding stormwater drainage system needs?** The city of Lindsborg is establishing a stormwater utility and user fee system that will be dedicated solely to addressing stormwater management and drainage issues. The stormwater utility fee will provide the resources necessary for the City to deliver stormwater services to residents, businesses, institutional and government facilities.
- 4. What are the City's goals for a stormwater program?** The stormwater program focuses on reducing the potential for the loss of life or property due to flooding. The City is responsible for the management and regulation of stormwater runoff. This requires that the City must undertake various activities including the cleaning of ditches and pipe systems; replacement of aging infrastructure such as catch basins, storm drain inlets and curb & gutter; and construction of new drainage systems to increase or improve conveyance capacity. Fees collected will support the ongoing maintenance and capital improvements on the City's storm drainage system.
- 5. Why did the City decide to implement a stormwater utility fee?** The City has evaluated its stormwater management needs and concluded that additional resources were needed. The City has evaluated the feasibility of charging a stormwater utility fee as opposed to increasing property tax millage, and has determined that the user fee approach is more fair and equitable to allocate costs as opposed to increasing ad valorem taxes to fund stormwater management services. The user fee is not based on the assessed "value" of a property like ad valorem taxes, rather it is based on each customer's demand that they place on the drainage system and the corresponding stormwater management services provided. The user fee is very similar to water, sewer, gas and electric. An additional benefit of a stormwater utility fee is that all stormwater utility fee revenues **must** be spent on stormwater management and drainage related issues whereas ad valorem tax revenues are typically not subject to such restrictions.
- 6. What is a stormwater utility fee?** A stormwater utility fee is a charge for stormwater management services provided by the City to all developed residential and non-residential properties in the City. It is very similar to a water or wastewater fee, which are also charged to customers who received these services from the City. Under the plan proposed, the stormwater user fee revenue collected can only be utilized for the provision of stormwater management services and operation of the City's drainage system infrastructure.

- 7. Will the stormwater utility fee be influenced by the amount of rain?** The stormwater utility fee is not related to the amount of rainfall. The fee will fund ongoing maintenance and capital improvements on City maintained drainage systems and flood hazard mitigation programs.
- 8. How do you calculate a stormwater utility fee charge for an individual property and utility customer account?** The stormwater utility fee is based upon the amount of **impervious surface** on a parcel. Impervious surface means those areas which prevent or impede the natural absorption of rainfall and stormwater runoff. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, rooftops, building or structures, sidewalks, walkways, patio areas, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, and other surfaces such as compacted soil and gravel. The square footage of impervious surface on a property has a direct correlation to the amount of stormwater runoff discharged from that property. Developed parcels with greater amounts of impervious area will place a larger impact on the City's drainage system.
- 9. How will my stormwater user fee be calculated?** The stormwater user fee will be based on a billing unit or Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) that is approximately to the impervious surface on an average single family residential home, which in Lindsborg is 3,172 square feet of impervious surface. Single family residential (SFR) will be charged 1.0 ERU per month. All non-single family residential (NSFR) properties will be charged a stormwater user fee based on the total impervious area on the property. For example, if a commercial site has 31,720 square feet of impervious surface, that customer will be charged 10 ERU's per month.
- $31,720 \text{ square feet of impervious surface} / 3,172 \text{ sq. ft.} = 10 \text{ ERU's (or billing units)}$
- 10. How much will customers be charged per ERU?** The proposed ERU fee is \$7.00 per ERU per month.
- 11. I rent the house that I live in, will I be charged?** The stormwater utility fee will be included as one of the utility fees on your City of Lindsborg utility bill. Thus, whomever pays the City utility bill will be charged the stormwater utility fee.
- 12. What will be the billing frequency and the billing mechanism?** The stormwater user fee charge will be billed on each customer's existing monthly utility bill, beginning in September 2017.

Who do I call if I have additional questions?
Call City Hall with questions at 785-227-3355.

