



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01545-5398

STORMWATER UTILITY
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is STWF? Is this going to be a quarterly bill? How does it relate to Water and Sewer?

The STWF is a recently adopted Stormwater Utility Fee to be billed accordingly with your Utility Bill (formerly known as the Water and Sewer Bill). The Stormwater Utility is a charge based on the square footage of impervious area on your property similar to how a Water Utility is charged based on the volume of drinking water used and how a Sewer Utility is charged based on the volume of water discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

Why do we have a STWF?

As part of the Clean Water Act, in April 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) updated the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), which went into effect on July 1, 2018. In short, this is known as the MS4-2016 Permit. This Permit is more stringent and comprehensive than the former MS4-2003 Permit, and the Town estimated the cost of compliance to be ± \$1.75 million per year.

Who approved of the STWF? When did it go into effect?

In May 2007, Town Meeting voted to approve Article 21 - the Stormwater Management Bylaw, which empowered the Board of Sewer Commissioners to promulgate a Stormwater Utility Fee pursuant to M.G.L. ch.83 §16 and ch.40 §1A. The Board of Sewer Commissioners, under the advisement of the Shrewsbury Department of Public Works (DPW), adopted the Stormwater Utility Rates on February 19, 2019 with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

What is stormwater and why is it a concern?

Stormwater is water originating from a rain event or snowmelt. Stormwater runoff occurs when the ground is unable to absorb all of the water. Impervious surfaces (e.g. buildings and driveways) prevent most of the runoff from infiltrating into the ground. This runoff can become polluted with litter, sand, bacteria, and chemicals as it flows over these impervious surfaces, into storm drains, and eventually discharge into our local water bodies, usually without any treatment.

These pollutants can seriously affect the water quality of our streams, ponds, and wetlands, harming public health and wildlife habitat and can even affect our groundwater. Cleaner stormwater means cleaner water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and for protecting wildlife.

Where can I learn more?

To learn more about the Utility, the MS4-2016 Permit, and Stormwater Pollution Prevention, please visit the Town of Shrewsbury's Stormwater Management webpage at <https://www.shrewsburyma.gov/stormwater>. If you have any further questions, you may also contact the DPW by e-mail at stormwater@shrewsburyma.gov or by phone at 508-841-8502.



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STORMWATER UTILITY RATES

(Adopted February 19, 2019)

(Effective July 1, 2019)

Parcel Type	Tier	Amount of Impervious Area [square feet]	Quarterly Rate
Residential (1-3 Family Homes, 2-unit Condominiums/ Townhouses, and Multiple Houses)	1	$0 < IA \leq 5,000$	\$22.50
	2	$5,000 < IA \leq 10,000$	\$50.00
	3	$IA > 10,000$	\$81.25

Parcel Type	Tier	Amount of Impervious Area [square feet]	Quarterly Rate
Other Residential / Non- Residential	1	$0 < IA \leq 5,000$	\$22.50
	2	$5,000 < IA \leq 10,000$	\$50.00
	3	$10,000 < IA \leq 15,000$	\$81.25
	4	$15,000 < IA \leq 25,000$	\$125.00
	5	$25,000 < IA \leq 50,000$	\$250.00
	6	$50,000 < IA \leq 75,000$	\$375.00
	7	$75,000 < IA \leq 100,000$	\$562.50
	8	$100,000 < IA \leq 200,000$	\$937.50
	9	$200,000 < IA \leq 300,000$	\$1,562.50
	10	$IA > 300,000$	\$1,875.00
Undeveloped Vacant Parcels	-	0	\$11.25