



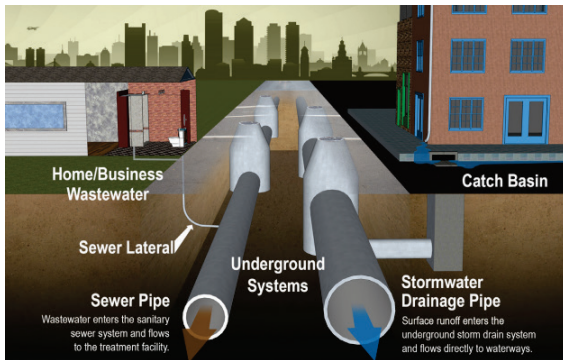
TOWN OF HUDSON, MA

# UNDERSTANDING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

FALL 2022

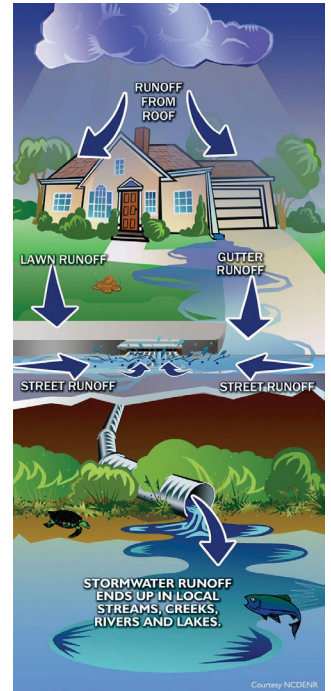
## WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is runoff created when precipitation flows over impervious surfaces which prevent water from seeping into the ground. Impervious surfaces include rooftops, driveways, and parking lots. Stormwater runoff transports pollutants like bacteria, sediment, nutrients, and petroleum into the Town's drainage system and local waterbodies without treatment. Pollution from stormwater runoff impacts wildlife, recreation, and the water quality of local rivers and ponds. Town services required by regulations will help maintain and replace aging infrastructure and reduce pollutant loading from stormwater.



### Stormwater management services include:

- Regulatory compliance and program administration
- Construction & maintenance of infrastructure
- Street sweeping & leaf litter clean-up
- Catch basin cleaning
- Water sampling & removal of illegal tie-ins
- Inspection of construction sites



Typical Stormwater Runoff Cycle

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

The Town's **stormwater management program** is changing, similar to hundreds of other communities in Massachusetts, **due to EPA and MassDEP environmental regulations that require increased efforts to maintain and replace storm drain infrastructure.** After consulting with experts and the Select Board, the Town has created a Warrant Article for the Fall Town Meeting that will develop a **Stormwater Utility** to fund its stormwater management program.

### Highlights:

- A Utility will streamline municipal operations, provide transparency into spending, promote effective infrastructure management and use of Town resources, and leverage outside funding sources.
- The by-law will allow for the creation of a dedicated fund for stormwater management
- By-law Warrant Article vote at Town Meeting (November 21<sup>st</sup>)

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COSTS ARE INCREASING



Stormwater management regulations in the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit require the Town to invest in its aging drainage infrastructure, reduce pollution from its drainage system, and report on compliance activities each year.

**THE CHALLENGE:** There is no dedicated funding source for stormwater management activities and historical funding levels and approaches have not kept pace with growing needs.

**OUR SOLUTION:** Create a Stormwater Utility that will fund the Town's stormwater management program.

For more information or questions on Hudson's Stormwater Management Program:  
Eric M. Ryder, Director of Public Works

[www.townofhudson.org/department-public-works/pages/stormwater-ms4-permit](http://www.townofhudson.org/department-public-works/pages/stormwater-ms4-permit)  
✉ [eryder@townofhudson.org](mailto:eryder@townofhudson.org) ☎ 978-562-9333

## WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY?

The Town's stormwater management program is currently funded through taxes under the General Fund, which finances multiple departments. Many communities are transitioning funding for stormwater programs to a Stormwater Utility.

A Stormwater Utility is a fund specifically dedicated to stormwater related costs.

The stormwater utility bill will be relative to the amount of impervious area on your property instead of property value.

**Residents will know where their money is being spent!**

### THE CHALLENGE:

Current funding prohibits effective planning and management of stormwater infrastructure

- Current stormwater program is funded through individual budget requests and is reactionary
- Compliance fines are expensive, up to \$25,000 per day, per violation, so the Town must take action now



*CURRENT FUNDING:  
Multiple departments  
funded - diluted impacts*

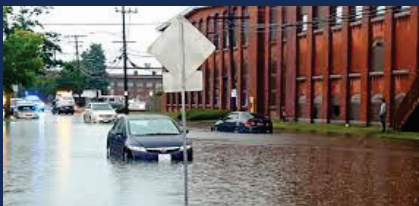


*PROPOSED FUNDING:  
Dedicated stormwater  
fund - prioritized spending*

### OUR SOLUTION:

- Effective infrastructure management, just like Water and Sewer Enterprise funds
- Increase transparency in funding needs and allocation of resources
- Create a sustainable mechanism for funding required stormwater management services

## HOW WILL THE PROPOSED STORMWATER UTILITY AFFECT ME FINANCIALLY?



*Fewer flooding / ponding areas  
with unclogged – rehabilitated  
drain infrastructure.*

**Q1:** Will this impact my property tax?

**A:** Stormwater Utility bills are unrelated to property value.

**Q2:** Who gets billed?

**A:** All property owners (residential, commercial, and organizations) in Hudson with developed land will receive a bill.

**Q3:** How much is a Stormwater Utility bill?

**A:** Bills for a typical single-family home are estimated at \$20 per parcel per quarter.

**Q4:** How is the Stormwater Utility bill amount determined?

**A:** The billed amount is determined by the amount of impervious area on a parcel (land area with your ownership)

**Q5:** Can I reduce my bill?

**A:** A system of credits can be developed with public input following Town Meeting

**Q6:** What is the non-payment penalty?

**A:** Unpaid utility bills will result in liens with compounded interest similar to unpaid water / sewer bills

**Q7:** What if the Warrant Article does not pass the November Town Meeting?

**A:** The Town will request the same level of funding at the May 2023 Town Meeting from the General Fund, which will require a tax increase.

## LEARN MORE

Attend the informational meetings to learn more about the Stormwater Utility



**November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**11:30 am or 6:30 pm**

Hudson Police Station  
1 Municipal Drive

# VOTE!

*On November 21, 2022, we invite you to vote on the Stormwater Utility.  
Thank you for caring about Stormwater in Hudson!*