CITY OF BOWLING GREEN
STORMWATER UTILITY
FAQs

WHAT IS THE MONTHLY STORMWATER FEE?

Beginning January 1, 2027, residential properties will be charged a **$4.00 monthly Stormwater Utility Fee**. This fee provides a dedicated, reliable funding source to maintain infrastructure, reduce flooding, repair sinkholes, and improve water quality throughout the city.

WHAT IS AN ERU (EQUIVALENT RESIDENTIAL UNIT)?

An ERU is the standard used to calculate stormwater fees.

- In Bowling Green, **1 ERU = 4,200 square feet** of impervious surface.
- This reflects the average impervious surface area (roofs, driveways, etc.) of our typical single-family home

Residential properties are billed 1 ERU = $4/month. Non-residential properties are billed based on how many ERUs or impervious their property contains.

WHAT IS AN IMPERVIOUS SURFACE?

Impervious surfaces prevent water from soaking into the ground and increase stormwater runoff. Examples include rooftops, driveways, roads, parking lots, and sidewalks.

WHY IS STORMWATER ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN BOWLING GREEN?

Bowling Green is located in a karst landscape where water can move quickly through sinkholes, caves, and underground channels. This makes proper stormwater management critical to protect groundwater, reduce localized flooding, and properly repair sinkholes and maintain built infrastructure.

WHAT DOES THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE FUND?

Stormwater Utility Fees will support:

- Storm drain system maintenance (pipes, ditches, basins, inlets)
- Sinkhole improvements and repairs
- Flood mitigation projects in problem areas
- Storm mitigation projects with integrated water quality improvements
- Public education and outreach programs
- Compliance with State and Federal Permits

EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF PROJECTS THAT WILL BE FUNDED BY THE STORMWATER UTILITY

➲CHESTNUT STREET STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT

Replacing and upgrading aging infrastructure to improve drainage capacity and reduce flood risk.

➲ELM STREET | WHISKEY RUN STORM SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Enhancing stormwater conveyance in a section piecemealed over the years.

➲FAIR STREET BASIN | WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD

Construction of a stormwater basin designed to reduce localized flooding and manage runoff in a historically impacted area.

➲TURKEY RUN BASIN EXPANSION

Increasing basin stormwater capacity to improve neighborhood flood resilience.

➲FOUNTAIN SQUARE | COLLEGE STREET RUNOFF REMEDIATION

Installing trench drains capture and move runoff more effectively to help prevent street flooding.

Questions?

(270) 393-3628 | stormwater@bgky.org

Why are sinkhole repairs included?

In Bowling Green's karst terrain, stormwater can contribute directly to sinkhole formation. Utility funds will help repair and stabilize sinkholes, improve drainage, and protect infrastructure and property.

Why is stormwater billed separately from water or sewer?

Stormwater is not treated at a wastewater plant. It flows through a separate system that also requires maintenance, upgrades, and regulatory compliance—making a dedicated funding source necessary.

Where does stormwater go in Bowling Green?

Stormwater flows into local streams, sinkholes, and underground cave systems. Due to the karst landscape, much of this water enters groundwater quickly, often without filtration.

What can residents do to help?

- Report spills or illegal dumping
- Keep storm drains clear of litter and yard debris
- Pick up pet waste
- Use fertilizers sparingly
- Dispose of hazardous materials properly
- Only Rain Down the Drain!