

## STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

In May 2017, the City of Alexandria adopted a Stormwater Utility Fee to fund the City's Stormwater Management Program, including Chesapeake Bay cleanup mandates. Because the Stormwater Utility Fee shifts stormwater management costs to the properties with greater impact on stormwater runoff and requires all properties to pay, the fee funds stormwater management more equitably than by raising the real estate tax.

### **This is not a bill**

The Stormwater Utility Fee is billed as a separate line item on the real estate tax bill per [City Ordinance Sec. 5-6](#) and City Ordinance 5-6-230, et. seq., and consistent with the [Code of Virginia §15.2-2114](#). In May, all property owners will be billed for half of the Stormwater Utility Fee as a separate line item on the real estate tax bill, with the next half of the annual fee billed in October. Properties who do not pay tax receive a bill for just the stormwater utility fee. If payment is not made by the property owner's bank or mortgage company, information on payment methods for the real estate tax bill is available at [alexandriava.gov/Payments](http://alexandriava.gov/Payments).

### **How Your Fee Is Determined**

Single-family residential property owners are billed flat fees based on the types of property they own. The fees for nonresidential and multifamily properties are billed based on each property's total impervious area. Impervious area includes only hard surfaces on which rain falls. This exterior impervious area is viewed from above the property and includes hard surfaces such as driveways and roofs, which don't allow rain or snow melt to soak into the ground. Impervious area is different from the floor area or interior square footage of a home or other building.

**First-Half 2022 Stormwater Utility Fees due June 15, 2022 and the second-half is due October 15, 2022.**

### **View Your Stormwater Utility Fee Information**

You can find the estimated annual Stormwater Utility Fee amount for an individual property online at [alexandriava.gov/Stormwater](http://alexandriava.gov/Stormwater). The estimated fee is based on the adopted Fiscal Year 2022 Stormwater Utility Fee, which is reviewed annually and set by City Council to be effective on July 1 each year. The actual second-half 2022 fees will reflect the adopted Fiscal Year 2023 Stormwater Utility Fees.

### **Petitions for Adjustment Must Be Filed Within 30 Calendar Days After Billing**

To file for an adjustment to the Stormwater Utility Fee with the Director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, you must submit a *Stormwater Utility Fee Appeal and Petition for Adjustment Form* within 30 calendar days after bills are issued in May 2022. This deadline is expected to be approximately June 15, 2022. Forms are available online at [alexandriava.gov/3876](http://alexandriava.gov/3876). Grounds for appeal are limited to those in Section 5-6-238 of the adopted ordinance. City Council does not hear Stormwater Utility Fees appeals.

### **Flood Action Alexandria**

In response to flash flooding events over the last few years, City Council approved an increase in the fee for the second half of FY 2021 and FY 2022 to fund the design and construction of large capacity projects to mitigate flooding and to accelerate the delivery of smaller capital project to address localized flooding. As well, funds will accelerate operations and maintenance of the storm sewer system. Along with the fee increase is funding for a new Flood Mitigation Grant Program launched in August 2021 that provides a reimbursement up to 50% of the total cost for the implementation of eligible flood mitigation measures, up to a maximum local match amount of \$5,000, that are implemented on private property. More information is available at [alexandriava.gov/FloodAction](http://alexandriava.gov/FloodAction).

### **Additional Information**

For more information, including how property owners can lower their fees in 2023 and beyond by implementing select practices that reduce stormwater runoff or improve stormwater quality, please visit [alexandriava.gov/Stormwater](http://alexandriava.gov/Stormwater) or contact the Stormwater Management Division at [stormwater@alexandriava.gov](mailto:stormwater@alexandriava.gov) or 703.746.4357.