

How will I know what my fee will be and what if I have questions?

If you are a single family residential property, you will pay a single flat rate fee, with half due each 6 months. The actual amount of the fee is still being calculated, but is expected to be approximately \$ 80 per year (\$6.67 per month). If you are a non-single family residence, you will pay based on the amount of your coverage, which is calculated by dividing your impervious coverage by the average single family residential impervious coverage, known as an ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit).

Assessments will be mailed to property owners with the estimated stormwater user fee due. If for some reason the county parcel data, or other parcel information is incorrect, and you believe it may affect your rate, you should contact the Township so that a specific review can be held to make sure the data and rate are accurate.

The assessment involves about 3,000 parcels, so there may need to be clarifications and adjustments. The Township will make sure each request receives the proper attention.



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Conewago Township Stormwater User Fees

*What You
Need To Know*



“Stormwater runoff is the fastest growing source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay.”

Chesapeake Bay
Foundationa

Background on State and Federal Mandates

According to the U.S. EPA, polluted stormwater runoff is the leading cause of impairment to nearly 40 percent of the surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet current water quality standards. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitat. In addition, if not properly managed, stormwater runoff can lead to both public and private property damage.

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the NPDES Stormwater Program (MS4) is a national program for addressing stormwater discharges, delegated to PA DEP. Conewago Township will become an MS4 permitted community in 2017.

As such, the Township has spent the last year tackling a difficult issue, how to fully and equitably fund stormwater management in order to meet the obligations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

If you have any questions, please attend an informational meeting to be held at SAVES on November 15th at 6PM.

What is a Stormwater User Fee?

A stormwater user fee is a fee that is collected solely for the purposes of funding stormwater related projects, permits, etc. It is called a user fee because it provides the payer of the fee various stormwater related services (much like a sewer fee, trash collection fee, or a water fee). It has its own budget and must be fully transparent to show it is properly spent. The collection of this fee is enabled by Act 62 of 2016 (formerly House Bill 1325). This legislation specifically enables a Second Class Township to collect a fee for the sole purposes of stormwater funding.

Why not use tax revenue to pay?

The cost of these programs and plans, in addition to the need for various capital improvements projects (with existing stormwater infrastructure), far exceeds the amount the Township currently spends from General Funds for stormwater.

Continued use of General Funds for stormwater, with the additional obligations, would require reducing expenditures by the Township in other areas such as police services or street maintenance.

How is this stormwater user fee different from a “tax”?

The stormwater user fee is different from a tax because it is not tied to the value of the asset. In other words, a tax is an assessment on the value of an item or a property. The stormwater user fee is instead tied directly to the contributor of runoff by the degree of impervious coverage on their property. Properties with no development will not be billed a stormwater user fee, and extensively-developed properties will pay accordingly.

How are the collected fees used?

The stormwater user fee pays for the operation and maintenance costs associated with the stormwater management program. Some of the services provided in this program include the following;

- Stormsewer maintenance, repair and construction
- Flooding Prevention
- Permit Compliance
- Public Education and Outreach
- Stormwater Quality Improvement Projects
- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

For More Information, visit: www.conewagotwp.org

