



Stormwater Utility Program

Why is stormwater important?

Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snow melt that flows over the ground surface. It is created when rain falls on roads, driveways, parking lots, rooftops and other paved surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground. As it runs off these surfaces, pollutants such as dirt and gravel, heavy metals, oil and hydrocarbons, fertilizers and pesticides are collected.

In the city, the majority of runoff is collected and treated to remove pollutants then discharged into the ground. This discharge recharges the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie Sole Source Aquifer, the region’s primary source for drinking water and irrigation.



What does the Stormwater Utility do?

The Stormwater Utility operates and maintains the city’s stormwater assets, such as drains, pipe and treatment facilities. It ensures that all standards and regulations mandated by local, state, and federal authorities for managing stormwater assets are met.

The city’s utility is funded through the collection of a stormwater fee that is assessed on all developed properties in the city.

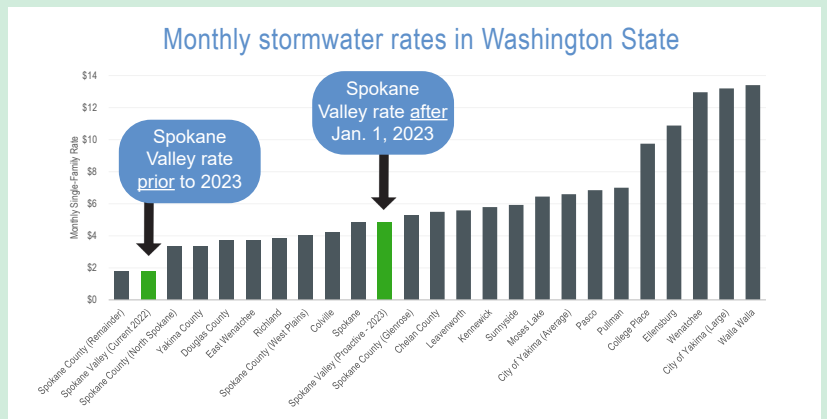


The stormwater utility fee funds the following activities:

- Inspection, maintenance and operation of city stormwater facilities.
- Service contracts for spill cleanup, traffic control, swale maintenance and landscaping, weed spraying, street sweeping, and cleaning of structures.
- Projects to mitigate drainage problems such as erosion, roadway flooding, and citizen concerns.
- Projects to increase stormwater capacity, protect water quality, and maintain regulatory compliance.
- Investigation and response to unauthorized discharges to protect the aquifer and surface waters.
- Provide education and outreach to generate awareness of water quality.
- Meet the regulatory requirements of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program and the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit.

Spokane Valley stormwater fees in 2023

The city’s stormwater utility fee for single family residences and other developed properties increased in January 2023 for the first time in 20 years. The old fee of \$21 per single family residence adopted in 2003 increased to \$58 per residence. Fees on other developed properties, such as multi-residential housing and commercial properties, also increased. This increase covers both inflationary costs over the last 20 years and activities required to comply with regulatory requirements while maintaining the level of service residents and businesses expect from their city.



For more information:

SpokaneValley.org/stormwater ■ 509.720.5000