

STORMWATER FINANCE IN TEWKSBURY

The Town of Tewksbury is developing a strategy to fund the Town's stormwater management needs, while at the same time ensuring costs are distributed equitably across all users.

After reviewing available funding mechanisms and examples of other municipalities in Massachusetts, the Town decided to explore the feasibility of implementing a stormwater enterprise fund.

A stormwater enterprise fund collects fees to support the operation, maintenance, upgrades, and expansion of the existing stormwater system.

Join us for a presentation and community meeting on

Future Stormwater Funding

Sept 3rd
Sept 10th
10:00-11:00
Senior Center

Sept 16th
Sept 30th
6:30- 7:30
Town Hall

Learn more <https://www.tewksbury-ma.gov/stormwater>

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GOALS



INVEST IN THE FUTURE



MEET REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS



CONTROL WATER POLLUTION



REDUCE STORMWATER FLOODING

The Tewksbury community will need to invest more in stormwater infrastructure to ensure system function and address aging infrastructure. By creating a stormwater enterprise fund, the Town can invest in the future without burdening other departments financed through the General Fund, like schools and highway.

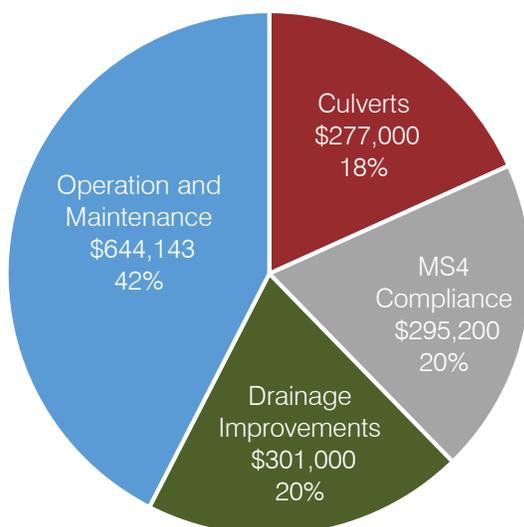
The Town must comply with the extensive requirements of the 2016 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit, which became effective on July 1, 2018. The Town will incur significant costs in order to meet the mandates within the permit. A reliable funding source will be necessary for the foreseeable future.

Urban stormwater runoff is directly correlated to the amount of impervious area. Impervious area keeps stormwater from seeping into the soil and recharging groundwater. In heavy downpours, the current storm drainage system can become overwhelmed. Funds generated through a stormwater enterprise fund can be used to upgrade systems and to construct green infrastructure. Green infrastructure, like bioswales and rain gardens, uses natural properties to filter pollutants and allow water to soak into the soil rather than flood our streets.

Stormwater flowing from impervious surfaces, like roadways and parking lots, carries pollutants into rivers, streams, and groundwater. Water contamination is harmful to drinking water sources, wildlife and recreation. Water pollution results in both indirect and direct costs.

PROJECTED STORMWATER BUDGET

\$1.52 MILLION PER YEAR ON AVERAGE



STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND FEASIBILITY

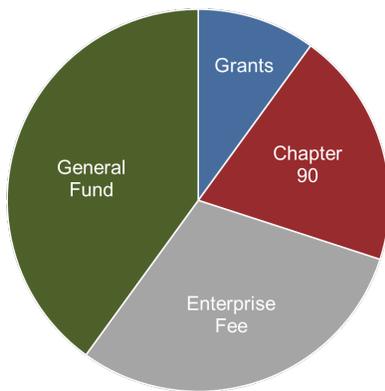
A stormwater enterprise fee offers a reliable and equitable funding mechanism to meet the Town's stormwater management needs compared to the other funding sources available in the table below. At present, there are at least thirteen communities in Massachusetts with stormwater fee systems in place and many more across the nation. There are several other communities actively working to develop stormwater funding mechanisms or that have passed enabling legislation.

| FUNDING | PROS | CONS |
|------------------------|---|--|
| General Fund | Protocol is already in place. Guaranteed source of funding. | New cost burdens from the MS4 Permit would increase the amount of funding going towards stormwater from the general fund, which could limit funding for other departments. Not all properties are taxed. |
| Grants | Brings funding from outside of the Town. | Grants are only for specific types of projects and are not guaranteed. |
| Stormwater Fund | Guaranteed source of funding. A more equitable fee based on impact to stormwater system. | Initial time and effort involved in implementation and oversight going forward. |

HOW WOULD A STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND WORK IN TEWKSBURY?

One of the fairest ways to create a stormwater enterprise fund is to calculate the fee based on a parcel's impact upon the drainage system. Parcels with greater impervious area, and without stormwater controls onsite, discharge greater amounts of stormwater into the municipal storm drain system. Some towns use an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to compare impact to the stormwater system across different land use types and its typically based on the average impervious area of the dominant land use type. In Tewksbury, the ERU would equal the average impervious surface on a single-family residential parcel.

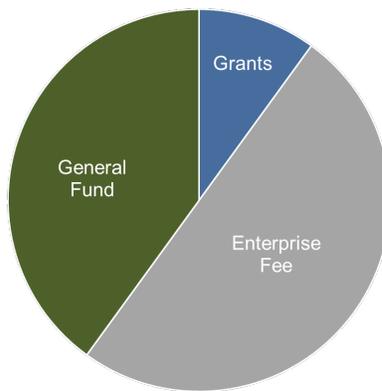
After reviewing several fee structures, a flat fee for residential parcels with three units or less and fee per ERU for commercial and larger residential properties would be an equitable way to issue stormwater fees in Tewksbury. Fees would be administered through the existing water/sewer billing system. Abatements or corrections to the stormwater bill would be offered and a simple credit or incentive program system is being explored. Read more at, <https://www.tewksbury-ma.gov/stormwater>.



\$30 per year
per small residential parcel
and per ERU

\$480,000
approximate annual revenue

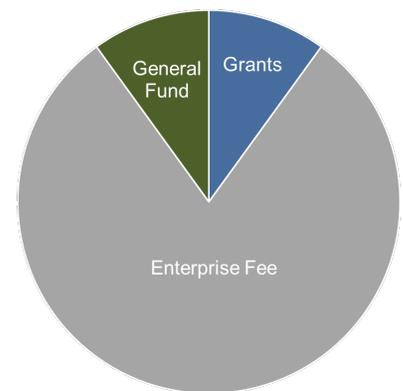
1/3
of approximate budgetary
need met by the enterprise fee



\$45 per year
per small residential parcel and
per ERU

\$721,305
approximate annual revenue

1/2
of approximate budgetary need
met by the enterprise fee



\$75 per year
per small residential parcel and
per ERU

\$1,202,175
approximate annual revenue

80-100%
of approximate budgetary
need met by the enterprise fee

