



# STORMWATER GUIDE

## FOR PITTSBURGH RESIDENTS

**PITTSBURGH HAS A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROBLEM.** A problem all residents and homeowners need to know about.

Heavy rains and aging infrastructure can result in frequent overflow flooding from our combined stormwater and sanitary sewer systems. When more rain falls than the sewers can handle, they overflow. Streets flood. Basements back up. Pollution empties into our rivers. *Everyone is affected.*

**BETTER STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CAN HELP.** To help meet this challenge, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) has engineered a new wave of stormwater infrastructure projects to more effectively manage stormwater.

These projects are an investment that focus on protecting neighborhoods from flooding and reducing the amount of sewage that overflows into our rivers. They are cost-efficient, green, and help promote healthy communities and clean water.



### HOW DOES IT WORK?

PWSA's strategic plan targets vulnerable areas most affected by street flooding, basement backups and other negative effects of overwhelmed sewer systems.

Our stormwater infrastructure projects include innovative solutions that soak up, slow down, and hold back excess water before it reaches our sewers. When there's less water in our sewers, there will be fewer backups in homes, and less pollution in our rivers, streams, and other surrounding public spaces.



### HOW ARE THESE PROJECTS FUNDED?

Cost-saving investments still need funding to get off the ground, and we believe investing in these projects now will minimize costly property damage by reducing localized flooding and backups. PWSA is adopting a strategy similar to thousands of other agencies across the country. We will charge a fee for our stormwater services, that will fund the improvements and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure based on the amount of hard surface on a property.

Roofs, pavement, asphalt, and similar hard surfaces do not absorb stormwater. These impervious surfaces collect rainfall and contribute significant amounts of stormwater runoff to our sewers. We have used aerial imagery to locate, identify, and measure the hard surfaces throughout Pittsburgh. Impervious surface is the most equitable way to calculate the stormwater fee for each property.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RESIDENTS?

All properties in the city, whether a warehouse or a parking lot, an apartment building or a house, will be asked to contribute something more commensurate with the amount of stormwater they are contributing to the sewers based on a tiered system that reflects the amount of hard surface on a property.

Stormwater Monthly Fees	ERUs	2022	2023
<b>Residential Tier 1</b> (≥400 sf to <1,015 sf)	.5	\$2.98	\$3.98
<b>Residential Tier 2</b> (≥1,015 sf to <2,710 sf)	1	\$5.96	\$7.95
<b>Residential Tier 3</b> (≥2,710 sf)	2	\$11.92	\$15.90
<b>Non-Residential</b>	Per ERU	\$5.96	\$7.95

→ **70%**  
of all  
Pittsburgh  
homeowners  
fall into  
Residential  
Tier 2.

Because the majority of residential properties fall under the category of Tier 2, parcels in that tier are considered our base rate, or one “Equivalent Residential Unit” (ERU). A Tier 2 property is one ERU, which will have a rate of \$5.96/month. Tier 1, the smallest tier, is half an ERU, so the monthly rate is \$2.98. A Tier 3 property is two ERUs, owners will see a monthly fee of \$11.92.



## CAN I LOOK UP MY PROPERTY TO UNDERSTAND MY STORMWATER FEE?

Yes, visit [www.pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee](http://www.pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee) to search for your property using the Fee Finder Website. Enter your address in the search bar, click inside your property to see the amount of impervious surface and the number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERU’s). To determine your fee amount, multiply the number of ERU’s by the stormwater rate and subtract any credits that may apply.



## CAN RESIDENTS APPLY FOR A STORMWATER WATER MITIGATION CREDIT?

PWSA supports efforts to mitigate the impact of impervious surface and is developing a credit and incentive program for residential property owners who reduce their impervious surface area. Under the credit program, replacing hard surfaces with green space, such as a rain garden, will result in a corresponding reduction of the stormwater fee. The success of PWSA’s stormwater management plan is dependent upon reducing runoff from both public and private properties.

Our Bill Discount Program, which is already in place for residential customers who need assistance on their water and sewer bills, will be expanded to include an 85% discount on the stormwater fee so it does not overly burden our most financially vulnerable customers.

**WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.** PWSA’s planned stormwater projects are about taking on the challenges of today, but they’re also for the future of our city. An ounce of prevention now will pay dividends for years to come.

Our rivers will be cleaner. Our infrastructure will last longer. Our homes will be safer. And with an equitable rate structure, residents will get the full benefits from green stormwater infrastructure projects while everyone contributes their fair share. To learn more, visit [www.pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee](http://www.pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee).

