

# Stormwater Utility



Town Council Presentation

March 16th, 2022

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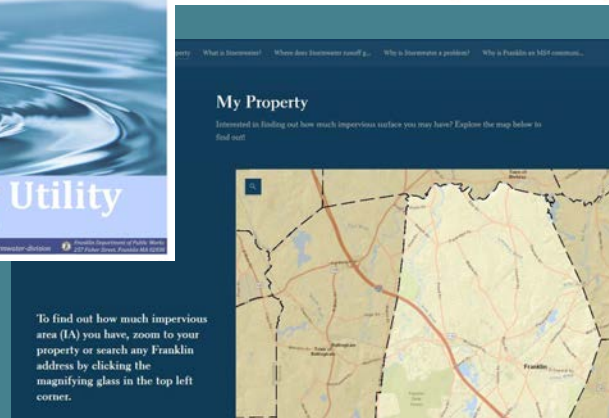
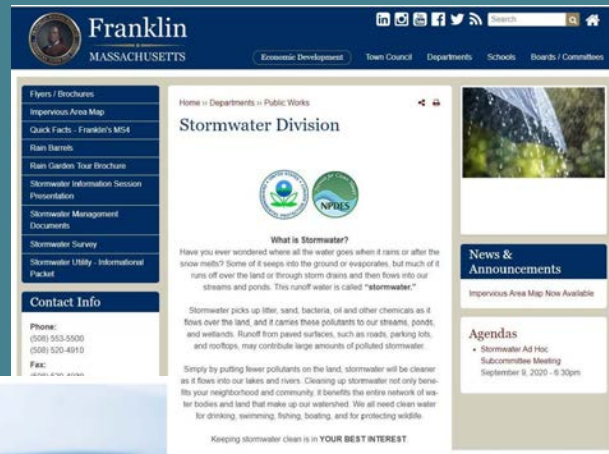
# Stormwater Background

The Stormwater Division website is the most comprehensive place to find stormwater information, including previous Town Council presentations on Stormwater.

- Public Outreach Presentations
- Previous Town Council Presentations
- Utility Flyer
- Impervious Area Story Map
- Rain Barrel Program
- Flyers & Brochures
- Stormwater Management Plan
- General Stormwater Information

<https://www.franklinma.gov/stormwater-division>

Franklin Department of Public Works



# How Much Is The Utility Fee?

***\$18.66 per billing unit (BU)***

The current standard for a Stormwater Utility Fee is based on Impervious Area (IA).

A billing unit in Franklin is 1,000 sq ft of IA

- Equality: All properties with IA will be part of utility billing
- Equity: Those with more IA will incur a higher rate

***The average single-family home in Franklin = 3 BU = \$56 per year.***

1 acre lot  
BUs x \$18.66  
\$74.64 per year



1/2 acre lot  
2 BUs x \$18.66  
\$37.32 per year



# Credit and Abatement System

- ❖ **Credits** will be offered to all property owners for a maximum reduction of 50% off their stormwater utility fee.

## Residential Credits:

- Rain Barrel
- Porous Pavement/Pavers\*
- Gravel Driveways\*
- Rain Garden
- Dry Well
- French Drain
- Other Subsurface Recharge System

## Commercial and Large Residential Credits:

- Rain Garden
- Bioretention Area
- Detention/Retention Basins
- Sediment Forebays
- Deep Sump or Leaching Catch Basins
- Tree Well
- Subsurface Structures

Credits must be reapplied for to maintain a lower stormwater utility fee; residential credits must be renewed on a yearly basis, commercial and large residential credits every five years.

- ❖ **Abatements** may be applied for if property owners feel their IA is reported incorrectly.

\*Owners with gravel driveways, pervious or porous pavers/pavement may apply for an abatement.

# Community Assistance Program

All stormwater utility fees will be waived for those property owners that qualify for the Community Assistance Program (CAP).

- Households gross income level must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Complete a Community Financial Assistance Eligibility Application
- All information collected is strictly confidential and will only be used only to determine eligibility for the CAP.
- §82-4 The full bylaw can be found here <https://ecode360.com/32290412>

# What Does This Utility Fund?

- Enhancement of existing services: catch basin cleaning, street sweeping, pipe inspections and repairs, drainage swale maintenance, etc.
- Identification and elimination of illicit pollution sources
- Inspection, construction, and maintenance of Stormwater treatment structures (BMP's): detention basins, stormceptors, tree wells, rain gardens, etc.)
- Leaf litter collection
- Compliance with the MS4 Permit
  - ◆ Phosphorus Control Plan (PCP) projects
- Increased drinking water protection



# Federal ARPA Money

- Incorporating stormwater improvements within scheduled infrastructure projects
- Upcoming road work: Arlington St, Country Club Dr, Jordan Rd, Tam O'Shanter Rd, Burning Tree Rd, North Park St
- MS4 Permit Year 5 (July 2022 - June 2023): detention basin upgrades (5)
- In 2020, average cost for BMP Construction = \$70,000
- **ARPA funds will help offset these stormwater/drainage costs for the next several years, saving residents money!!**

# Why We Can't Ignore This

## Quincy Case Study:

March 2019 - US Attorney's Office files a civil complaint against the City of Quincy

- Sewage leaking into storm drain system and polluting Quincy Bay
- City agrees to consent decree; expected cost = ***excess of \$100 million***
- ***Civil penalties = \$115,000***
- Failing infrastructure must be repaired
- ***Work must be completed by December 2034***





# How Will This Improve Residential Quality of Life?

- Asset Protection
- Drainage Improvements
- Flood Mitigation
- Drinking Water Protection
- Healthy Waterways
- Roadway Safety
- Improved Infrastructure
- Leaf Litter Collection



# Discussion