




# Monroe County Stormwater Fee

General Information and  
Common Questions



# A Quick Video

- ▶ The Cuyahogoa River Fire gives us historical context showing why we need to protect water quality
  - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIHiaZFvcXA>
  - ▶ This was one incident that lead to the passing of the Clean Water Act
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# Some History

## The Clean Water Act

- ▶ Passed in 1972 amid rampant pollution to our waterways
- ▶ It regulates discharges under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES Permits)
- ▶ In 1999, large Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) required to obtain a NPDES permit
  - ▶ Indianapolis was the only city in Indiana in this category
- ▶ In 2003, smaller municipalities such as Monroe County were required to obtain a NPDES permit as well

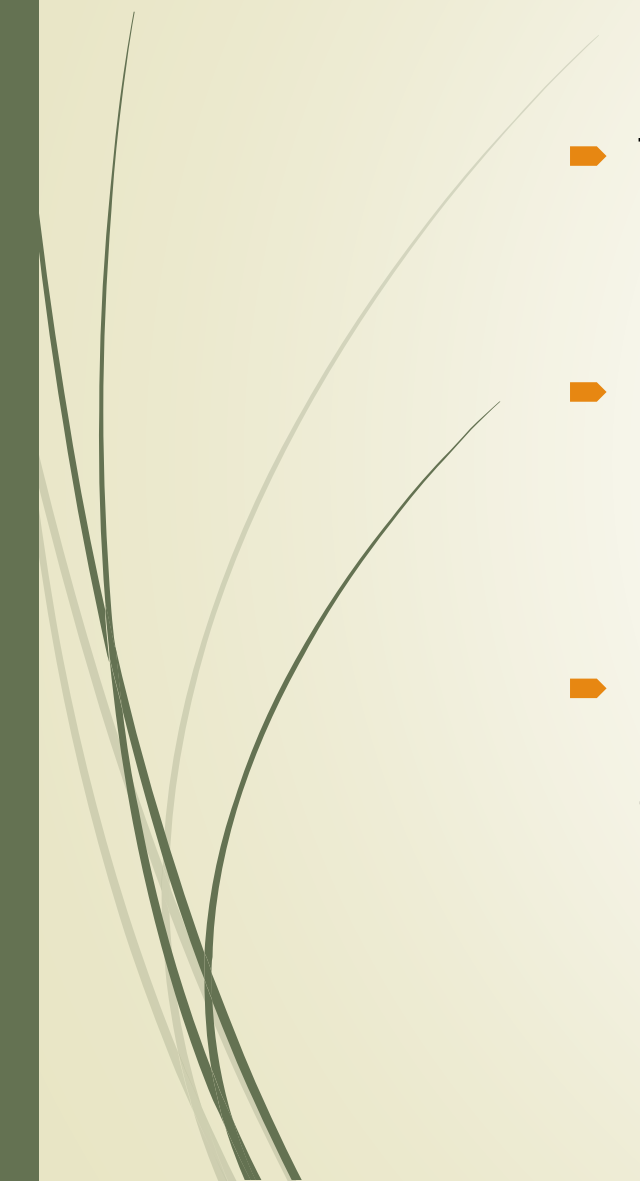


# Why Do I Pay The Fee?!

- ▶ As an MS4, Monroe County has regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act, but these are **unfunded mandates**.
  - ▶ The stormwater fee funds this program.
- ▶ The stormwater program results in better road drainage, cleaner water, and reduced flooding. **Everyone benefits from these public goods.**
- ▶ Each property owner is charged a fee because every property has runoff that contributes to downstream flooding or pollution.



# How is the Fee Assessed?

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- ▶ The fee is assessed based on impervious surface (driveways, rooftops, etc.) that limit water infiltration into the ground.
  - ▶ Residential parcels (and agricultural parcels with a home) have an average of 5200 square feet of impervious surface, and are charged a flat fee of \$35.16 a year.
  - ▶ Other (non-residential) parcels are individually measured using GIS mapping technology to determine their impervious surface and then their fee.



# Non-residential Fee Calculations

- 1) Impervious surface is measured
- 2) Divided by 5200
- 3) Then multiplied by \$35.16





# Common Questions

- ▶ Will it reduce my stormwater fee if I combine parcels?

***Yes, but only if the parcel still remains in a property classification of 1-2 family home.***

- ▶ If I am a church or non-profit, why am I not exempt and how is my fee calculated?

***If a parcel has impervious surface, it is not exempt from the stormwater fee. Even properties owned by the U.S. government are billed. The fee is calculated using impervious surface measurements.***



# More Common Questions



- ▶ How does the stormwater fee benefit me? There are no ditches near my house, why do I have to pay?

***The stormwater program results in better road drainage, cleaner water, and reduced flooding for all county residents. Everyone benefits from these public goods.***

- ▶ Why is it only county residents?

***The city of Bloomington assesses its own stormwater fee, as well as the town of Ellettsville.***