

Storm Water Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Springville City charging a Storm Water fee?

The State of Utah and the Environmental Protection Agency have mandated that cities the size of Springville need to have an active storm water plan in place by June of 2007 or face financial penalties in excess of \$1,000 a day. On February 20th, 2007 the Springville City council reviewed and acted on the following information:

- A Storm Drainage Master Plan, Monthly Rate Study, and Impact Fee Study.
- Set and adopted a Storm Water Impact Fee amount based on the Impact Fee Study.
- Set and adopted a Storm Water Service Charge amount based on the results of the Rate Study.
- Formally set a date for the imposition of the Impact and User Fees.

What is a storm water service charge?

The storm water service charge is a monthly fee that would be charged to all Springville City residential and commercial users. This fee funds operations, maintenance, administrative, non-growth related capital improvements, plan review & inspection, engineering & project management, and public information outreach programs.

What is the difference between the impact fee and the monthly fee?

Impact fees are billed to new development to offset the cost of building new storm water infrastructure needed with new development. In the case of the soon to be adopted storm water master plan, the impact fees will only be levied against new development in the areas outlined in the master plan. These would be those areas south and west of Hobble Creek within the boundaries of Springville City.

The monthly service charge fee will be billed to all residential and commercial users in Springville City. This fee funds the operations, maintenance, administrative, non-growth related capital improvements, plan review & inspection, engineering & project management, and public information outreach programs associated with the Storm Drainage System.

How is the service charge fee calculated?

The service charge rate is based on impervious surface area found on your property. The single family rate (Equivalent Residential Connection, ERC) will be a uniform rate. The commercial/industrial/multi-family rate is based on measure impervious area of the parcel, which is then related back to the billing rate of an ERC. The actual area assumed for a single ERC was calculated by taking 50 random residential parcels and measuring the impervious area on the parcel. The average impervious area of each of the 50 parcels was calculated to be 3,800 square feet.

The impact fee rate is calculated by taking the total Impact Fee Eligible Capital Improvement costs (all the storm drainage facilities needed due to growth) divided by the number of ERC's anticipated due to growth. Growth pays for itself if the full legally defensible impact fee is levied.

Where will the dollars collected for the storm water fees go?

Service charge monies will go toward the operations, maintenance, administrative, non-growth related capital improvements, plan review & inspection, engineering & project management, and public information outreach programs associated with the Storm Drainage System. Impact fee monies will fund capital improvement projects associated with new growth and development as required by Utah state law.

When will the storm water fees begin?

The City Council directed storm water fees to begin as follows:

- Impact Fees will be collected on all new building permits submitted on or after April 1, 2007
- The Service Fee will be collected for services provided after March 1, 2007. This fee will first show on the bill received in April, 2007.

Will the billing be monthly, quarterly, or yearly?

The billing for the service charge will be included on your monthly utility bill. The billing for the impact fee will be in the development process with the Planning and Building Departments for new development within the City.

Is Springville the only City that has this fee?

No. The following is a partial list of cities and the fees they charge per equivalent residential connection:

<u>City</u>	<u>Monthly Rate per ERC (Residents = 1 ERC)</u>
Payson	\$5.00
Orem	\$4.50
Centerville	\$4.00
Draper	\$4.00
Springville	\$3.96
West Valley City	\$3.75
Murray City	\$3.55
Spanish Fork	\$3.00
Salt Lake City	\$3.00
Midvale	\$3.00

Please keep in mind that everyone’s definition of an ERC is a little bit different. While this doesn’t impact a resident, it makes a big difference to a business. For example, Spanish Fork defines an ERC as 3,200 sq. ft. of impervious surface while Springville defines it as 3,800 sq. ft.

My business or subdivision collects our storm water in a pond, why am I being charged?

Almost every business and subdivision in town has some form of on-site detention or control for storm water. These structures are designed to slow down the storm water and release it more slowly as well as to allow some of it to percolate into the ground. The overflow and released water is handled by the storm drain system. In addition to the maintenance of the actual storm drain system, money from this fee is being used to meet other requirements placed upon the City by the federal government.

What are these “other requirements?”

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program requires the City to “pretreat” storm water. This requires the City to sweep roads more often, put “pillows” to absorb oils in storm drain structures and do maintenance more than ever before. In addition, the City is required to provide education to citizens about the impacts of polluting storm water.

My storm water flows into an irrigation or drainage ditch. What does the City have to do with them?

The Springville Irrigation Company, the Utah County Drainage District and other smaller irrigation companies have been great partners with Springville City in handling storm flows to reduce the risk of flooding your home or business. These entities have handled the majority of the storm flow structures for the City for decades. Over the past few years, the City has worked closely with these entities to determine a plan for the long range handling of City storm water. Some of this planning is still going forward. Springville City is contractually bound to pay for the services these outside entities provide. Thus, even if your water goes into an irrigation ditch Springville City is paying for this service.

Can you guarantee that I won't be flooded out in a storm?

Unfortunately, we can't. The storm drain system authorized by the City Council was designed to provide protection against storm runoff created by a storm of a magnitude that should occur only once in 10 years. With good engineering and planning, new and rejuvenated areas are designed so that storm water would be kept from homes and buildings in a storm happening only once in a 100 years, wherever possible. In addition, we know from our planning that some areas of town are deficient. This means that the current system won't protect against a 10-year storm. The City will be using funds from this fee to correct these deficiencies.