

Understanding the **NEW** **STORMWATER** **UTILITY**

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rain and melted snow that flows over the ground. In natural areas, this water is typically absorbed by the ground or finds its way back to ponds and streams. In urban centres, like Spruce Grove, hard surfaces, such as paved areas and rooftops, prevent this water from soaking into the ground naturally.

How is stormwater managed?

In Spruce Grove, the City manages stormwater by planning and controlling runoff from rain and melted snow through a stormwater network. The network includes roadways, ditches, storm sewers, storm sewer manholes, catch basins and stormwater management ponds, and other facilities.

Why is a stormwater network important?

Locally, the amount of stormwater is increasing due to population growth, higher density neighbourhoods and weather fluctuations. A well maintained stormwater network protects water quality and reduces the risk of flooding that could damage your property and the environment.

What is the new stormwater utility?

The stormwater utility is a mechanism that went into effect on Oct. 1, 2020, to fund the City's stormwater network in a fair and equitable way, both now and in the future. All property owners will be required to contribute to this utility fund. If you already have a utility account, the stormwater utility fee will appear on your monthly water and sewer bills as a separate line item, otherwise you will begin receiving a separate monthly bill for this charge. Please note this fee is not charged to those who are renting a property.

How will these funds be used?

Funds collected through the stormwater utility will go into a dedicated stormwater network fund that will be used to address preventative maintenance and repairs, as well as paying for future stormwater projects.

For more information, please visit [**sprucegrove.org/stormwater**](https://sprucegrove.org/stormwater)