

# PEORIA'S NEW

# STORMWATER UTILITY:

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Peoria's new stormwater utility has officially gone into effect. You may have questions about this new utility and what it means for you. You'll find answers to many of them here. Have additional questions or want to know more?

Visit [www.PeoriaStormwater.com](http://www.PeoriaStormwater.com) or call 309-494-8800.



## WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY?

Just like you already pay the electric company to use electricity and the water company to use water, starting June 1, you'll pay to use the stormwater system we all share. While a stormwater utility is new to Peoria, it's not a new idea. Communities across the country use them to pay for wet weather issues. Why? Because it's fair. Every property owner's bill is calculated the same way, and everyone pays based on how much their property contributes to the stormwater system.

### We're not alone

Other Illinois communities with a stormwater utility include Bloomington, Champaign, Eureka, Morton and Rock Island, to name just a few.



## WHAT MAKES UP PEORIA'S STORMWATER SYSTEM?

When stormwater runs off your property, it has to go somewhere — it goes into the stormwater system. For years, erosion, flooding, other damage from runoff and time have taken their toll on our infrastructure. Because we all depend on it every day, no matter where in the city we live, we all share responsibility for making sure it's working and well-maintained.

### Elements of the stormwater system



DITCHES



CREEKS



PIPES &  
CULVERTS



PONDS &  
LAKES



CURBS &  
GUTTERS



INLETS &  
MANHOLES



WETLANDS



OCEANS



RAIN  
GARDENS



BIOSWALES

## WHY DOES PEORIA NEED A STORMWATER UTILITY?

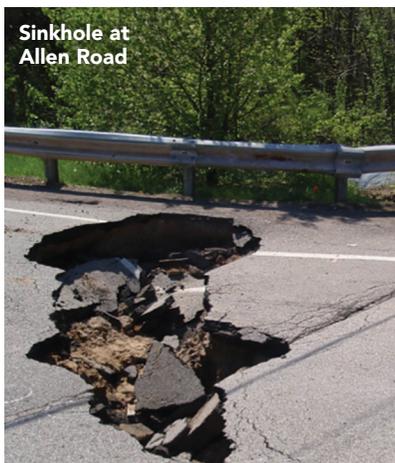
Wet weather problems like sinkholes, collapsing pipes, erosion and flooding occur across the city, and they're creating health and safety hazards on both public and private property. We need to start solving them now before they get worse and cost more to fix.

### Pollution problems

As stormwater rushes across streets, parking lots and driveways, it picks up trash, chemicals, bacteria and other waste, then flows into our creeks, streams and river. That's a health issue and a regulatory problem — and it puts a lot of strain on our stormwater system, too.

### Waterlogged and backlogged

We're fighting an uphill battle when it comes to stormwater problems — some of the oldest stormwater infrastructure our city utilizes has been in service for well over 80 years. The stormwater utility will not only address the current 400+ projects we know about but also provide funding for the ongoing maintenance and lifecycle costs of the system.



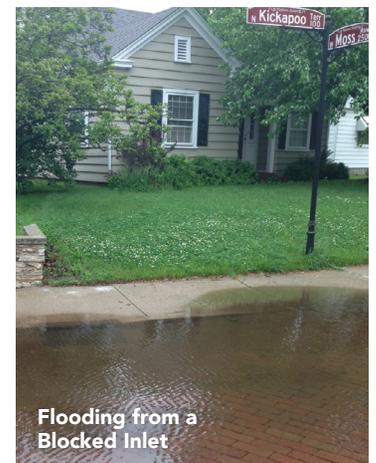
## HOW WILL THE MONEY BE USED?

The funds raised by Peoria's stormwater utility can ONLY be used to fund wet weather needs. That includes addressing our backlog of stormwater problems, maintaining existing infrastructure, inspecting sewers and keeping streets and inlets clean to reduce pollution.

Additionally, funds from the utility will let us put in place new green solutions citywide — so we can manage stormwater where it falls and keep runoff out of our stormwater system in the first place. Our goal is to stop reacting to issues and instead be proactive about preserving our stormwater infrastructure, protecting our river and the health of our community.

### Runoff vs. roads

With so many Peoria streets in bad shape — particularly after this harsh winter — you might wonder why we're focused on stormwater runoff instead of road repair. Actually, we can do both. In the past, road funds each year were diverted to solve stormwater issues on road projects. With the stormwater utility in place, stormwater infrastructure will have its own dedicated funding source.



## WILL THIS PAY FOR THE COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW (CSO) SOLUTION?

You may have heard about Combined Sewer Overflows, or CSOs, which happen when combined sewers are overwhelmed by wet weather, causing raw sewage to flow right into the Illinois River. Did you know CSOs can occur with as little as .15 inches of rain? This is a problem the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires us to fix.

The total CSO solution will cost Peoria \$200-250 million. The City Council will ultimately decide how this will be funded. **The stormwater utility will pay for a portion of the CSO solution, namely the maintenance and some installation of green infrastructure.** Green infrastructure not only is good for the combined sewer area, but it also benefits our whole community by capturing stormwater, improving air and water quality and beautifying our city.

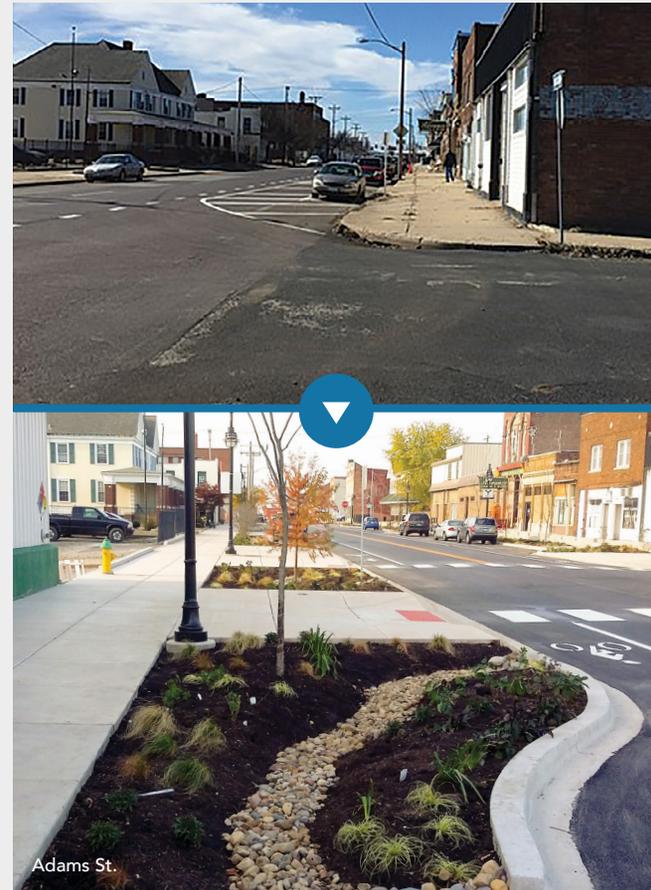
## WHY ALL THE FOCUS ON "GREEN"?

Peoria could be the first city in the nation to employ all green solutions — things like rain gardens, green alleys, natural plantings and permeable pavements — to tackle wet weather issues, including CSOs. Green works because:

- It costs less than "gray" infrastructure like pipes, tanks or tunnels.
- It puts less demand on existing drains and pipes, saving money in the long run by extending their life.
- It beautifies our city and benefits residents. Studies link green spaces to less crime, safer streets, better mental health and reduced stress.
- It gets local businesses involved in creating and maintaining solutions, as compared to constructing massive tunnels that would require foreign companies.

### Green infrastructure in action

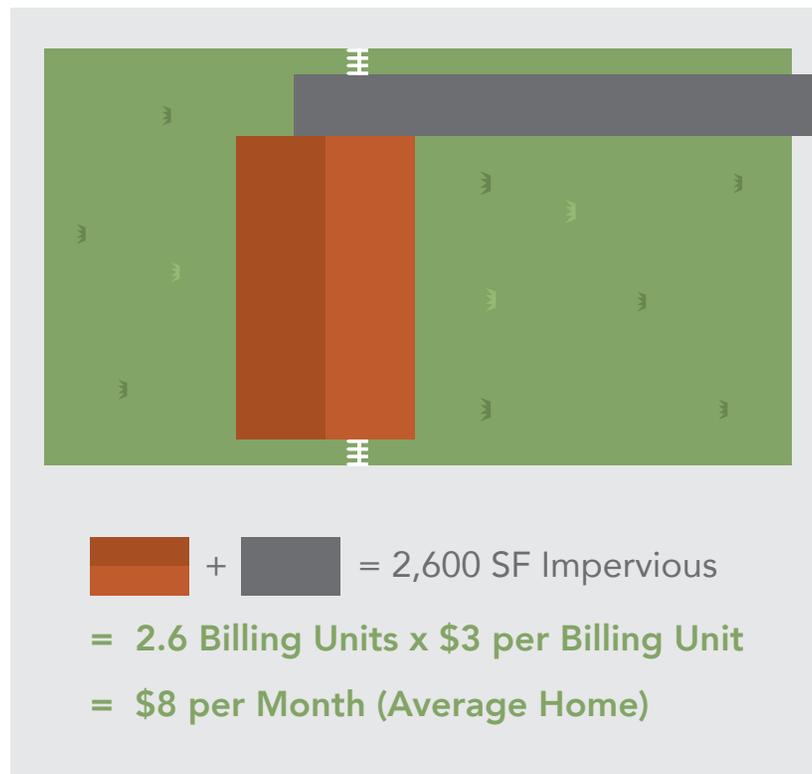
This two-block-long pilot project on Adams Street features bioswales, rain gardens and permeable pavers to retain water — and it's working. The site removed 638,000 gallons of water from the combined sewer system during its first six months on the job.



## BILLING DETAILS

### How much will I pay?

Your stormwater utility bill is based on the amount of “impervious area” on your property. Rooftops, sidewalks, walkways, patio areas, driveways, parking lots, sheds and more are considered impervious because they don’t let stormwater do what it wants to do — soak into the ground. A local stakeholder group called the OneWater Committee, which was comprised of Peoria community leaders, helped determine the rate methodology. Every property owner in the city will pay \$3 a month for every 1,000 square feet of impervious area. You can view your impervious area at [peoriastormwater.com/stormwater-utility/impervious-area-map](http://peoriastormwater.com/stormwater-utility/impervious-area-map).



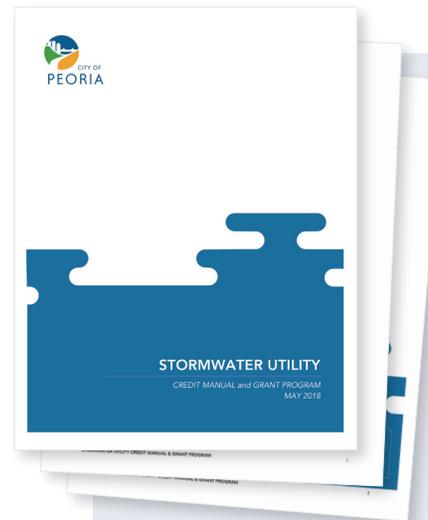
**How often will I be billed?** Quarterly.

**When does billing start?** Summer 2018 — you’ll get your first bill in July, August or September depending on billing cycles.

**How do I pay?** Online, by mail, at local retail locations (more details coming soon) or at the City Hall Treasurer’s office.

**Will this rate go up?** Yes, in 2020. In 2018 and 2019, the stormwater utility fee will be \$3/1,000 sf impervious area, in 2020 the fee will be \$4/1,000 sf impervious area and in 2021 the fee will be \$5/1,000 sf impervious area.

**Is there any way to reduce my bill?** Yes! We all have a role to play in solving Peoria’s wet weather problems, and we want to encourage every property owner to manage or reduce stormwater runoff. You can apply for credits or grants if you install rain barrels, permeable pavers, rain gardens or new drainage systems, for example. Find out more at [peoriastormwater.com/stormwater-utility/lower-your-payment](http://peoriastormwater.com/stormwater-utility/lower-your-payment).



### Stormwater Utility Credit Manual

If you take action to manage runoff on your property, you can apply for credits or grants that may help reduce your stormwater utility bill.

## Sample Bill

This preview helps you understand what your bill will look like.

Please note the following areas:

- Service address
- Account number
- Due date
- Total due



**PEORIA CITY TREASURER**  
419 FULTON  
PEORIA, IL 61602  
309-494-8800 - WWW.PEORIASTORMWATER.COM

### UTILITY BILL

**CUSTOMER COPY**  
Keep this copy for your records

Customer Name TEST CUSTOMER		Service Address 1234 TEST ST	
Bill Number 70	Bill Date 09/01/2018	Account Number - Customer Number 100177 - 928	Current Billing Due Date 11/01/2018
Charge Description	Date of Service	Billing Units (1000 SqFt)	Charge Amount
STORM WATER	06/01/2018 - 08/31/2018	2.6	\$23.40

**Sample Calculation**  
Impervious Area × 1000 × rate × months = charge  
\*\*\*Go to [www.stormwaterpeoria.com](http://www.stormwaterpeoria.com) for more information and to pay your bill online.\*\*\*

Total Current Billing	\$23.40
Previous Balance	0.00
Adjustments	0.00
Less Payments Received	0.00
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$23.40</b>

After 11/01/2018, a 10% late fee applies  
Total amount due will be **\$25.74**

✂ Detach and return the portion below with your payment ✂



**PEORIA CITY TREASURER**  
419 FULTON  
PEORIA, IL 61602

### UTILITY BILL

**REMIT PORTION**  
Please write your Account Number on your check and enclose this portion of bill with your payment.

Service Address	Bill Number	Account Number - Customer Number	Due Date	Amount Due
1234 TEST ST	70	100177 - 928	11/01/2018	\$23.40

Check here for change of billing address only and note changes below

TEST CUSTOMER  
1234 TEST ST  
PEORIA, IL 123456

CITY OF PEORIA  
PO BOX 6390  
PEORIA, IL 61601

00006042018000000070300000378000

## OUR GOAL: A GREEN DOMINO EFFECT

Imagine if every property owner in Peoria committed to managing stormwater on their land. We'd see rain gardens pop up, rain barrels installed, permeable pavement laid and green roofs sprout on top of buildings. Every action makes a difference, and the cumulative effect will forever improve our city. Now is a time for solutions. We're facing pollution head-on and examining how our behaviors impact the environment around us. We're making better choices for today and tomorrow. Peoria's use of a stormwater utility marks the start of a more sustainable, more responsible and more beautiful city.

### Have more questions?

You'll find a lot more information online at [PeoriaStormwater.com](http://PeoriaStormwater.com). Be sure to check out the FAQs page at [peoriastormwater.com/get-help/faq](http://peoriastormwater.com/get-help/faq) for more questions and answers. Or call 309-494-8800 to ask your question directly.





CITY OF  
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