What is a Stormwater Utility?

A Stormwater Utility is a legal entity which provides maintenance, improvements, planning, regulation, permitting and administrative functions for the stormwater collection system. A Stormwater Utility (like other City Utilities) will provide a method of generating revenues for these necessary activities through user fees. Southport established a Stormwater Utility in 2015 and is now studying options to propose policies and rates.

What are Stormwater User Fees?

Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) are used to assess fees. An ERU is equal to the average amount of residential impervious surface area. The user fee per ERU is determined according to the cost for the City to manage the stormwater system. These fees will be billed on your property tax bills, as they have been in the past, however, the revenue will now remain local since Southport has separated from the Indianapolis/Marion County Stormwater Utility.

How may the revenue be used by the Stormwater Utility?

1. Revenue from stormwater user fees may be used to fund stormwater management programs and projects.
2. Storm sewer maintenance cleaning and repair may be funded to improve drainage throughout the City.
3. Requirements for the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit MS4 Program may also be funded.

For more information regarding the Stormwater Utility, please contact the Southport City Hall or the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 317-786-3585.

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Stormwater Utility
Public Education Information
City of Southport, Indiana

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Stormwater Utility

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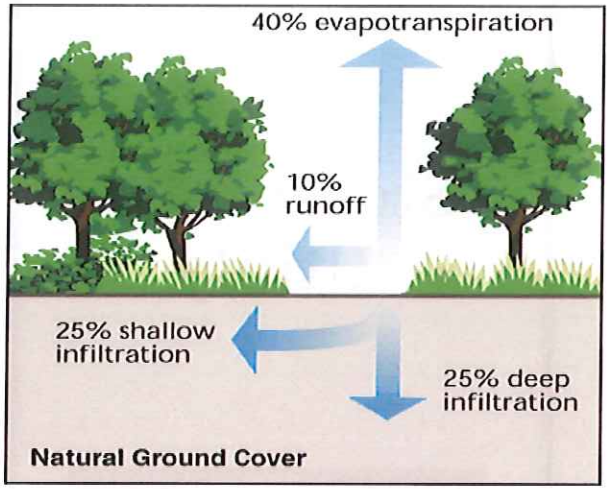
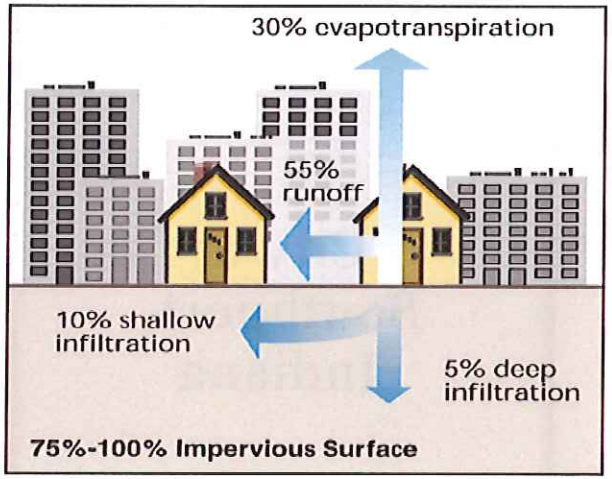
City of Southport, Indiana

How Do Impervious Surfaces Affect Stormwater?



In areas of natural ground cover, stormwater is able to evaporate to the air and infiltrate to the ground. This results in less runoff and less stormwater pollution.



As the amount of impervious surface increases, the rate of stormwater runoff is increased resulting in more stormwater runoff and pollution.

What is an impervious surface?

Impervious surfaces are hard surfaces which prevent or limit the natural entry of stormwater into the soil. Impervious surfaces include all hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots, patios, and sidewalks (concrete, asphalt and compacted gravel surfaces are included). Impervious surfaces increase stormwater runoff and may contribute to stormwater pollution.

What is stormwater runoff?

Since stormwater cannot be absorbed by impervious surfaces, the stormwater runs over the surface as stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff must be managed through a stormwater collection system (pipes, culverts, ditches, swales, inlets, curb and gutter, detention ponds, etc.) to prevent standing water and flooding.

How is stormwater affected by increased runoff?

With increased amounts of impervious surface, more runoff is produced and it travels at higher speeds. This runoff picks up and carries pollutants to the stormwater collection system and eventually to receiving waters (lakes, ponds, rivers and streams). Large volumes of quickly flowing runoff will also erode soil, damage plants, and cause waters to become clouded and murky with sediments.

How is stormwater affected by increased pollutants?

Within urbanized areas, impervious surfaces tend to collect a variety of pollutants including cleaning products; paint; oil, grease, chemicals from automobiles; road salts; pesticides and fertilizers from lawn maintenance and gardening; pet waste; litter; and eroded sediments and soils. An increased amount of pollutants can harm fish and wildlife, kill native plants, contaminate drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas unsafe.

Federal and State regulations require the City of Southport to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

The City of Southport is mandated under the Federal NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program to obtain an NPDES permit for their Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) This permit program requires the City to reduce pollutants carried by the storm sewer system and discharged into creeks and streams. The City must comply with this Federal mandate and continue to implement this program while providing storm sewer services throughout the City.