

# Bellingham Stormwater Fee Adjustments & Credits

## General

Property owners must submit their application for an adjustment or credit within forty-five days of receipt of their initial Quarterly Water/Sewer/Trash/Stormwater Bill in order to be eligible for retroactive adjustment or credits. Initial Quarterly Water/Sewer/Trash/Stormwater Bills will be issued monthly on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month starting October 15, 2020 through March 15, 2021.

After the initial Quarterly Water/Sewer/Trash/Stormwater Bill period noted above, annually, property owners must submit their application for an adjustment or credits no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> in order for any adjustments or credits to apply to their first invoice of the next fiscal year which is the June Quarterly Water/Sewer/Trash/Stormwater Bill.

Property owners that have modified their property and believe the modification makes them eligible for an Adjustments or Credit, must submit their application forty-five days before their next quarterly bill is to be mailed. Quarterly Water/Sewer/Trash/Stormwater Bill are planned to be mailed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month; therefore, application must be received on or before the first of the month of the month prior to the billing month.

## Adjustments

Property owners may submit an application for an adjustment of their Stormwater Utility Fee (SWUF) if they have information to prove the square footage of impervious area of the parcel is different from that for which they are being billed.

Small Residential Properties:

Single family residential parcels, two and three family parcels, and a condominium unit, owners are charged a fee based on their grouping as small residential properties. There is no individual measured square footage calculated for these properties; therefore, they are not eligible for an adjustment. All Senior and Lifeline property owner are in the Small Residential Properties category and also ineligible for an adjustment.

Large Residential and Non-Residential Properties:

The square footage of impervious surface data for large residential (4 or more units) and all other non-residential parcels was obtained from the MassGIS data layers. Adjustments will be considered if a property owner can prove that the MassGIS data for impervious area of a parcel is incorrect.

The applicant for an adjustment must provide compelling information regarding the accurate, actual, quantity of impervious surface on the parcel. The DPW Director shall be the sole judge

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as to what is compelling information and the accuracy of any such information provided in an adjustment application.

Once an adjustment due to incorrect impervious surface quantity is granted, the revised area will be entered into the Town's database and affect all future billing.

Adjustments for incorrect impervious surface quantity shall not be retroactive. Adjustments shall be to all future SWUF. No refund of past payments of the SWUF will be allowed.

## Credits

Property owners may submit an application for a Credit of their Stormwater Utility Fee (SWUF). In order to receive a credit the property owner must provide information confirming that they maintain and operate on-site or off-site stormwater management systems or facilities (hereafter BMP) that reduce or mitigate the Town's cost of providing stormwater management services or assist the Town in achieving nutrient loading reductions.

The Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook Volume II (Mass SW HB), contains a wide array BMPs. In order to be considered for a credit, the property owner must own (or construct new), maintain and operate the BMP in accordance with the Mass SW HB.

In order to be eligible for a credit the property owner must submit documentation that the BMP they own and operate will achieve a **phosphorus reduction**. Phosphorus reductions are required in the entirety of Bellingham to meet Clean Water Act requirements; the northern portion of Bellingham is subject to the Charles River Watershed Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the southern portion of Town is subject to the Blackstone River Watershed Phosphorus impairment. Phosphorus management and reduction is expected to account for the majority of the Town's stormwater management costs for the next twenty years. Phosphorus reduction on private property will result in implementation of best management practices with a number of co-benefits that will reduce the property's overall contribution to stormwater management costs (i.e., less runoff volume and peak rates, more infiltration, reduction of other pollutants, etc.).

The amount of the reduction must be noted in the application package and based on Appendix F of the 2016 MA Small MS4 General Permit. The application must be signed by the property owner and signed and stamped by a professional engineer with the backup documentation regarding the reduction of phosphorus load.

The amount of the annual credit will be **\$500 per pound of phosphorus reduction per year** as compared to the April 2005 Land Use baseline loading as certified by the professional engineering signing and stamping the application. The maximum credit shall be an 80% SWUF reduction.

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## Steps to Calculate SWUF Credits

1	Calculate Baseline Phosphorus Load using 2005 Land Use	A	lbs/year
2	Calculate Current Phosphorus Load using present Land Use	B	lbs/year
3	Calculate Phosphorus Removal from Structural BMPs	C	lbs/year
4	Calculate Phosphorus Removal from Non-Structural BMPs	D	lbs/year
5	Total Phosphorus Reduction (lbs/year): C + D - (B - A) =	E	lbs/year
6	Total Credit: E x \$500 =	F	\$/year

## Appeals

See Section 6 of the Stormwater Utility Fee Regulations regarding procedures to file appeals related to decision made by the DPW Director on adjustment or credits.