# Stormwater Utility Fee Evaluation Study

# **City Council Update**





May 13, 2025

## Agenda

- Stormwater Utility Fee Overview & Fee Basis
- Stormwater Cost of Service Summary
- Stormwater Utility Fee Rate Structure Scenarios
- Benchmark Comparison
- Council Direction & Next Steps

# Stormwater Utility Fee Overview & Fee Basis

## What is a Stormwater System?

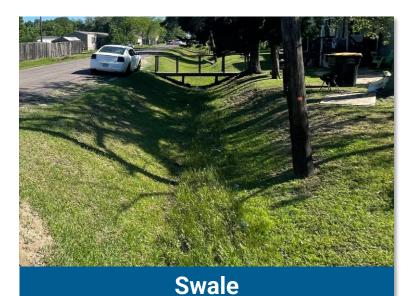
- A system designed to manage stormwater runoff
- Includes infrastructure such as drains, pipes, and swales



Culvert



**Storm Drain Pipe** 

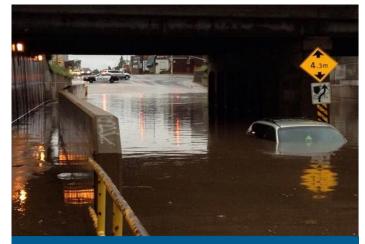


# **Problems Facing Stormwater Systems**

- Aging or damaged infrastructure affects the system's functionality
- Stormwater flow can cause erosion
- Inadequate drainage capacity leads to flooding
- Runoff can pick up pollutants and affect water quality



Creek Erosion



Flooding



Water Pollution

# What is a Stormwater Utility Fee?

### Authorized by State law

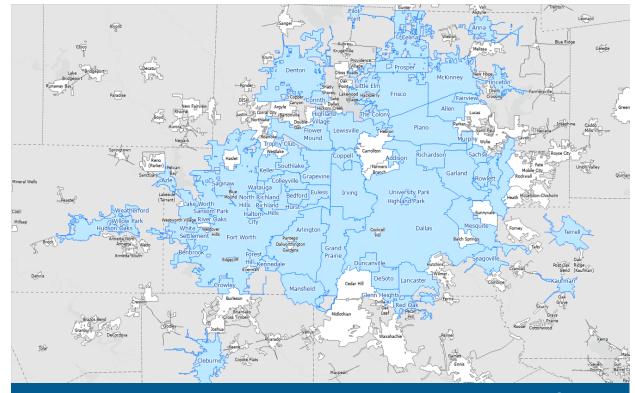
 Local Government Code 552, Subchapter C (Municipal Drainage Utility Systems Act)

### **Dedicated funding mechanism**

 Directly support costs to maintain the stormwater system

### Service-based fee

- Must be reasonable, equitable, nondiscriminatory
- Based on cost of providing drainage service
- Monthly fee on utility bill



Cities in North Texas with a stormwater utility fee

## How is the Stormwater Fee Determined?

### Water Fee Metered Usage





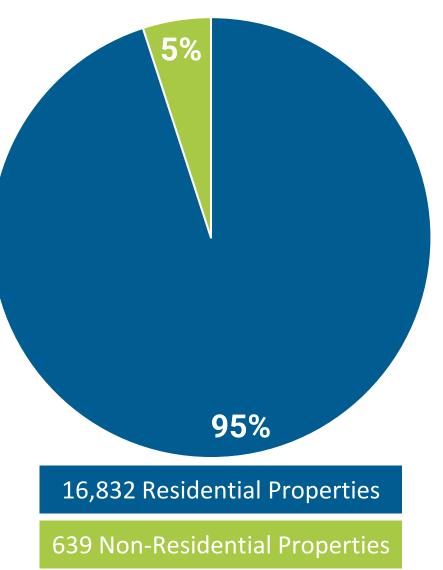
### Stormwater Fee Impervious Area



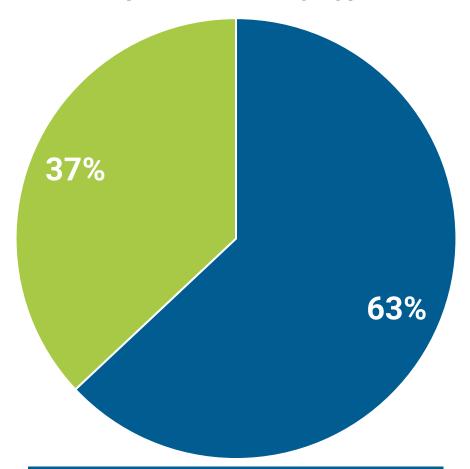
**Impervious area** includes surfaces that do not provide stormwater significant opportunity for infiltration into the soil and result in increased stormwater runoff to the municipal storm sewer system.

# **Property and Impervious Area Summary**

**# of Properties by Type** 



Impervious Area by Type



62,000,000 sq ft for Residential

36,000,000 sq ft for Non-Residential

# Stormwater Cost of Service Summary

## **Existing Stormwater Services (General Fund)**

### FY21-22

- Operating: \$180,000
- Special Project: \$190,000 (Stormwater Outfall Repair)

### FY22-23

- Operating: \$150,000
- Special Project: None

### FY23-24

- Operating: \$175,000
- Special Project: None

- Five full-time staffed positions
- Phase II MS4 stormwater quality compliance
- FEMA floodplain administration
- Operations and maintenance: reactive services
- Inspections
- Special projects (when necessary)
- Annual street sweeping

## **Proposed Stormwater Operating Expenses**

Expense	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Stormwater Operations	\$180,000	\$185,400	\$190,962	\$196,691	\$202,592
Street Sweeping*	\$75,000	\$77,250	\$79,568	\$81,955	\$84,413
Stormwater Master Plan	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$605,000	\$262,650	\$270,530	\$278,646	\$287,005

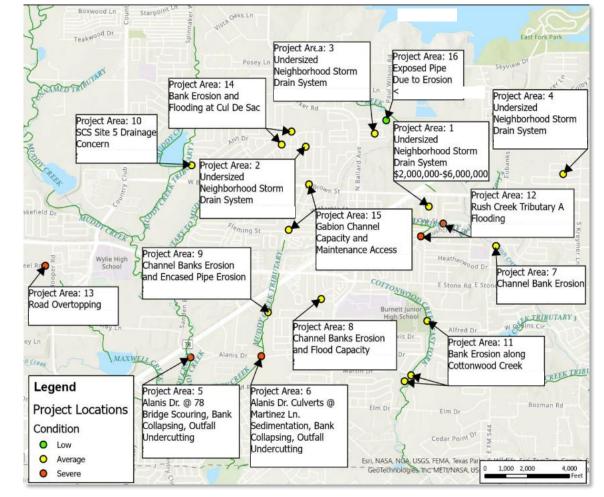
\*Sweep entire city twice annually

Stormwater Operations and Street Sweeping include 3% inflation increase each year

# **Cost of Service – CIP Considerations**

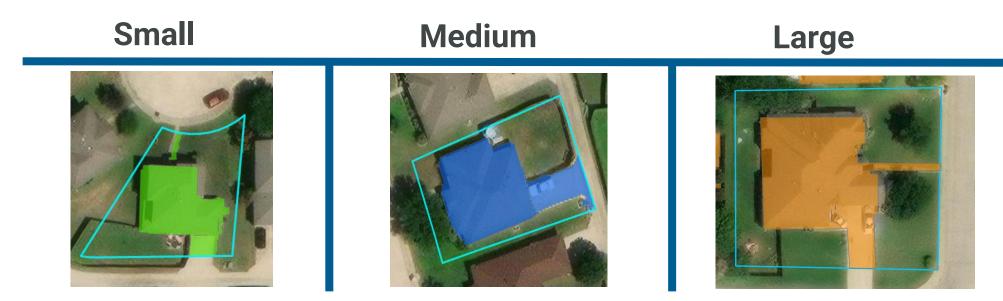
40 known problem areas citywide
\$50 million+ rough cost projection





# **Stormwater Utility Fee Rate Structure Scenarios**

### Residential



#### Average residential impervious area in Wylie = 3,500 square feet impervious area = 1 ERU

Residential Structure	Small	Medium	Large
Flat Rate	1 ERU	1 ERU	1 ERU
Tiered	0.69 ERU	1 ERU	1.58 ERU

*ERU = Equivalent Residential Unit* 

### **Non-Residential**

#### **Typical Small**

#### **Typical Medium**

#### **Typical Large**



Non-Residential Structure	Typical Small	Typical Medium	Typical Large
Per ERU	3 ERUs	10 ERU	45 ERU

## **Residential Flat-Rate Structure Scenario**



#### **100% of Single-Family Homes**

#### \$5.00/month

Commercial properties charged \$5.00/ERU/month

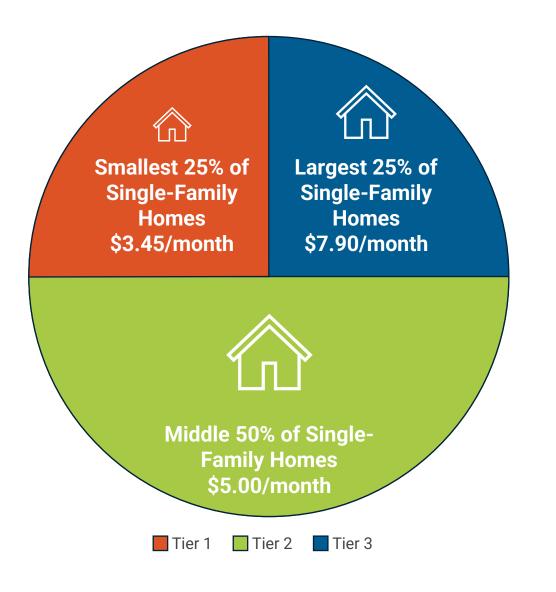
#### **Revenue Impact**

- ✓ Generates \$1.5M-\$1.7M annually
- ✓ Funds \$250-\$290K Annually for O&M
- ✓ Cash-funded CIP in FY26 is \$895K
- ✓ Funds \$350K Stormwater Masterplan in FY26
- ✓ Cash-funded CIP in FY27-30 is \$1.3M-\$1.4M/year

#### Exemptions

- No Stormwater Fee applied to Church, City, or County owned Properties
- ✓ Exempting ISD properties would reduce revenue by \$120K annually

## **Residential Tiered-Rate Structure Scenario**



Commercial properties charged \$5.00/ERU/month

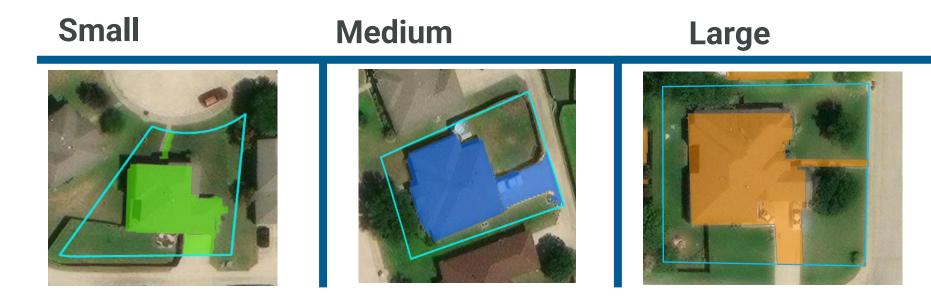
#### **Revenue Impact**

- ✓ Generates \$1.6M-\$1.8M annually
- ✓ Funds \$250-\$290K Annually for O&M
- ✓ Cash-funded CIP in FY26 is \$1M
- ✓ Funds \$350K Stormwater Masterplan in FY26
- ✓ Cash-funded CIP in FY27-30 is \$1.4M-\$1.6M/year

#### Exemptions

- ✓ No Stormwater Fee applied to Church, City, or County owned Properties
- ✓ Exempting ISD properties would reduce revenue by \$130K annually

### **Residential Properties**



Residential Structure	Small	Medium	Large
Flat Rate	1 ERU	1 ERU	1 ERU
Tiered	0.5 ERU	1 ERU	1.67 ERU
Flat Rate Monthly Fee	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Tier Rate Monthly Fee	\$3.95	\$5.00	\$7.90

### **Non-Residential**

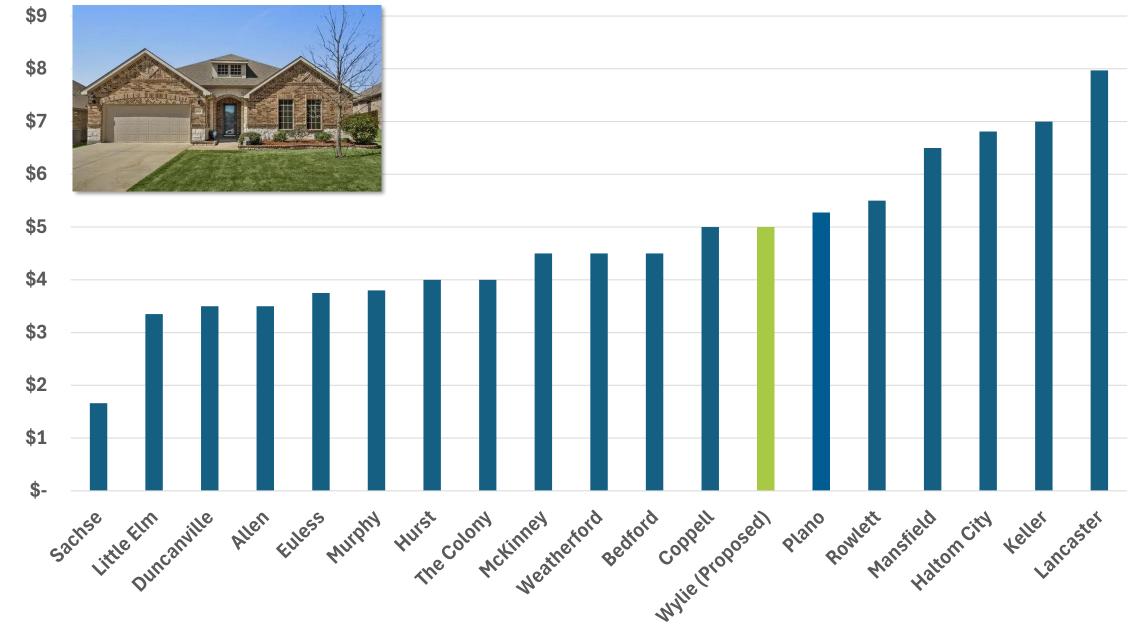


Non-Residential Structure	Small	Medium	Large
Per ERU	3 ERUs	10 ERU	45 ERU
Per ERU Monthly Fee	<b>\$15.00</b> (\$5.00/ERU)	<b>\$50.00</b> (\$5.00/ERU)	<b>\$225.00</b> (\$5.00/ERU)

BAR M R SE

# **Benchmark Comparisons**

## **Stormwater Utility Monthly Rate Comparison**



# **Council Direction**

# **Council Direction Needed**

#### **1. Preference for Rate Structure**

Flat-Rate Residential Structure

**Residential \$5.00/Month** 

Commercial Rate \$5.00/ERU/Month

**Pro**: Simpler to administer and communicate **Con**: Less equitable to residential rate payers

#### **Tiered Rate Residential Structure**

Residential Tier 1 \$3.45/Month Residential Tier 2 \$5.00/Month Residential Tier 3 \$7.90 /Month

#### Commercial Rate \$5.00/ERU/Month

Pro: More equitable to residential rate payersPro: +\$100K annual revenueCon: More effort to administer

#### 2. Exempting ISD properties

In both scenarios exempting ISD properties would result in approximately \$120K-\$130K reduced revenue per year

### **Next Steps**

Prepare and publish draft ordinance and fee schedule City Council meeting for public hearing and rate approval

### **Go-live billing**

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