

Storm Water Program Frequently Asked Questions

What Does the City of Hamilton's Storm Water Program Do?

Each year the City of Hamilton receives approximately 41 inches of rainfall and 13 inches of snowfall. This precipitation results in billions of gallons of storm water runoff each year. The City's storm water program provides a number of services related to managing of this storm water runoff. Below are just a few of the key storm water management services the City currently provides.

- The City owns, and maintains (inspects, cleans, repairs, and replaces) public storm water infrastructure. This includes over 100 miles of storm sewer pipes ranging in size from 10" up to 144" in diameter, as well as thousands of structures like inlets/catch basins and manholes.
- The City requires new developments to include detention basins or ponds to reduce the potential flooding impacts to downstream properties.
- The City completes capital improvement projects to address regional storm water issues, such as frequent street flooding.
- The City has a storm water permit, issued by Ohio EPA with requirements the City must follow to protect water quality and minimize pollution.
- The City's storm water program also provides services such as street sweeping and leaf collection services.



What is the Storm Water User Fee?

The City charges all land owners a storm water fee. In 2019, residential homeowners pay \$4.30 per month, while non-residential property owners pay a fee that is based on the amount of impervious area such as buildings and pavement on the land they own. The City uses the funding from the storm water user fee to pay for all elements of the storm water program.

Can My Property Cause Storm Water Pollution?

Yes, it can! Storm water runoff from all properties in the City of Hamilton flows to local streams, basins, and the Great Miami River. The water carries with it pollution from the ground surface such as fertilizer, pet waste, sediment, oil, chemicals, and litter. Do your part to reduce the pollution that reaches the streams - pick up litter and pet waste, minimize fertilizer and chemical applications, and use proper disposal methods for hazardous substances.



I HAVE A STORM WATER ISSUE ON MY PROPERTY! What Should I Do If...

...runoff from an adjacent property is causing issues on my property?

Talk to your neighbor or your Homeowners Association and work together to determine a better solution. Water often flows across or through neighboring properties, but generally, property owners should not discharge concentrated storm water flow directly toward the property line.



...I have an area in my yard that does not drain well, and it is difficult to mow?

Puddles and wet areas are very common after rain. Generally, water should dry up within 2 or 3 days after it stops raining. If you would like the area to dry out sooner, you could complete your own drainage improvements such as installing a yard drain, swale, or rain garden.



...the creek or stream near my house is eroding or has fallen trees?

If the stream is located on your property, you are responsible to maintain it. Fallen trees should not block the flow of water through the channel and should be removed if necessary. Erosion can be managed by planting additional vegetation and trees or "live stakes" on and near the banks.



Report Urgent Storm Water Issues and Safety Concerns!

(513) 785-7550

Call this number for any emergency storm water issue which may require immediate City support such as sink holes, dangerous road flooding, missing/broken sewer grates or structure lids, etc.

CONTACT US! For any other storm water issues, the City of Hamilton is here to help! If you have noticed a storm water related issue, please contact us to let us know about it. The City only has jurisdiction over the publicly owned infrastructure and drainage issues on public lands, but we are also happy to meet and discuss any issues with you.

ONLINE: Enter comments using the City's 311 service - weblink located in the lower left corner of the City website www.hamilton-city.org

PHONE: Department of Engineering - (513) 785-7280

EMAIL: Allen.Messer@hamilton-oh.gov

The City of Hamilton drains to the Great Miami River - everyone can be part of protecting this resource and reducing storm water pollution.

