

## STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

The City of Alexandria adopted a Stormwater Utility (SWU) Fee in May 2017 and first billed it in May 2018 to fund the City's Stormwater Management Program, including Chesapeake Bay cleanup mandates and the operating programs and capital projects under the Flood Action Alexandria program (see below) that launched in Spring 2021 in response to more recent flooding. Since the SWU Fee shifts stormwater management costs to the properties with a greater impact on stormwater runoff and requires all properties to pay, the fee funds stormwater management more equitably than by raising the real estate tax.

### **This is not a bill**

The SWU Fee is billed as a separate line item on the real estate tax consistent with the [Code of Virginia §15.2-2114](#). All property owners are billed for the first half of the Fee in May and the second half billed in October. Properties that do not pay real estate tax still receive a bill for the SWU Fee. If payment is not made by the property owner's bank or mortgage company, information on payment methods for the real estate tax bill is available at [alexandriava.gov/Payments](http://alexandriava.gov/Payments).

### **How Your Fee Is Determined**

Single-family residential property owners are billed a flat fee based on property types. The fees for non-residential and multifamily properties are billed based on each property's total impervious area. This is the exterior impervious area that includes hard surfaces such as roofs, parking lots, and driveways, which don't allow rain or snow melt to soak into the ground. Impervious area differs from the floor area or interior square footage of a home or other building.

***First half 2024 Stormwater Utility Fees due June 15, 2025, and the second half is due October 15, 2025.***

### **View Your Stormwater Utility Fee Information**

You can find the estimated annual Fee amount for an individual property online at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/stormwater-management/stormwater-utility-fees-and-credits-for-residential-properties>. The estimated SWU Fee billed in May is based on the adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 rate and the October billing is based on the adopted FY 2026 rate, as reviewed and set annually by City Council to be effective on July 1 each year.

### **Petitions for Adjustment Must Be Filed Within 30 Calendar Days After Billing**

To file a petition for an adjustment to your Fee with the Director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, you must submit a *Stormwater Utility Fee Appeal and Petition for Adjustment Form* to adjust the annual billing within 30 calendar days after the first bills are issued in May 2025. This deadline is expected to be approximately June 15, 2025. Forms are available online at: <https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/tes/stormwater/stormwaterfeeappealform.pdf>. Grounds for appeal are limited to Section 5-6-238 of the City ordinance. City Council does not hear SWU Fee appeals.

### **Flood Action Alexandria**

In response to flash flooding events over the last few years, City Council approved an increase in the fee for FY 2025 to continue funding the design and construction of large capacity projects to mitigate flooding and to accelerate the delivery of smaller 'spot improvement' capital project to address localized flooding, and fund acceleration of storm sewer operations and maintenance. The Fee also funds the City's Flood Mitigation Grant Program launched in August 2021 that provides a reimbursement of up to 50% of the total cost up to a maximum City match of \$5,000 for implementing eligible flood mitigation measures on private property and up to a maximum City match of \$25,000 for eligible practices installed for association common areas. More information is available at [alexandriava.gov/FloodAction](http://alexandriava.gov/FloodAction).

### **Additional Information**

For more information, including how property owners can lower their fees in Calendar Year 2026 and beyond by implementing select practices that reduce stormwater runoff or improve stormwater quality, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/stormwater-management/stormwater-utility-fee> or contact the Stormwater Management Division at [stormwater@alexandriava.gov](mailto:stormwater@alexandriava.gov) or 703.746.6499.