Fair Share Drainage Charge

Each year, billions of gallons of storm water and snow-melt runoff from rooftops, parking lots and other hard, impervious surfaces drain into the city’s combined sewer system. In compliance with federal regulations, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) expends more than $125 million annually to treat, transport and store storm water runoff.

Since 1975, most DWSD customers have paid for drainage. Together with the City Assessor’s Office, DWSD updated its billing system data to ensure all parcels that drain into the city’s combined sewer system were being billed for their fair share of drainage costs.

However, more than 20,000 parcels that contribute to the city’s drainage were not being billed for drainage. These parcels were added to the billing system in October 2016. Over the next 36 months, all parcels will be billed a uniform rate based on an impervious acreage basis.

To help customers reduce their drainage charge and promote storm water management practices, DWSD is launching a drainage credit program. Customers who reduce peak flow and volume of storm water runoff on their property can earn credits that can be applied to their bill. Credits can be earned by disconnecting downspouts or planting rain gardens as an example.

To learn more about drainage charges, view and verify parcel(s), and to update account information, visit the drainage website at: www.detroitmi.gov/drainage. Emails can be sent to: drainage@detroitmi.gov, or call (313) 267-8000 and follow the prompts to speak with a drainage customer care specialist.

Equitable and accurate billing together with Green Infrastructure practices will help prevent untreated overflows, preserve water quality and help Detroit become one of the “greenest” cities in America.