

Storm Water Drainage Utility

CHAPTER 53: STORM WATER DRAINAGE UTILITY

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§ 53.01 STORM WATER DRAINAGE UTILITY ESTABLISHED.

The Council may, by resolution adopted by a majority of its members, resolve that the city storm sewer system be operated as a public utility pursuant to M.S. § 444.075, from which revenues will be derived subject to the provisions of this chapter and state statutes. The storm water drainage utility will be under the administration of the City Clerk.

§ 53.02 DEFINITION.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definition shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

RESIDENTIAL EQUIVALENT FACTOR (REF). One **REF** is defined as the ratio of the average volume of runoff generated by one acre of a given land use to the average volume of runoff generated by one acre of typical single-family residential land during a standard one-year rainfall event.

§ 53.03 DETERMINATION OF STORM WATER DRAINAGE FEES.

(A) Storm water drainage fees for parcels of land shall be determined by multiplying the REF for a parcel's land use by the parcel's acreage and then multiplying the resulting product by the storm water drainage rate. The REF values for various land used are as shown in the following table.

[See table on following page]

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<i>Classification</i>	<i>Land Use</i>	<i>REF</i>
1	Cemeteries, golf courses	.25
2	Parks with parking facilities	.75
3	Single-family and duplex residential	1
4	Public and private schools	1.25
5	Multiple-family residential, churches and government buildings	2.5
6	Commercial, industrial, warehouse	5
7	Vacant land	As assigned

(B) For the purpose of calculating storm water drainage fees, all developed single-family and duplex parcels shall be considered to have an acreage of one-third acre. The storm water drainage rate shall be as set in the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to § 30.11 of this code by the City Council.

(C) Other uses not listed shall be classified by the City Engineer by assigning them to the most similar class from the standpoint of probably hydrologic response.

§ 53.04 CREDITS.

The Council may adopt policies, recommended by the City Engineer, by resolution for adjustment of the storm water drainage fee for parcels based upon hydrologic data to be supplied by the property owner, which data demonstrates a hydrologic response substantially different from the standards. The adjustment of storm water drainage fees shall not be made retroactively.

§ 53.05 EXEMPTIONS.

The following land uses are exempt from storm water drainage fees:

- (A) Public rights-of-way;
- (B) Vacant, unimproved land with ground cover; and
- (C) Wetlands and public waters as defined by state law.

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§ 53.06 FEE PAYMENT PROCEDURES.

(A) Statements for storm water drainage fees shall be computed monthly and shall appear as part of the monthly utility bill from the city utilities.

(B) If a property owner or person responsible for paying the storm water drainage fee questions the correctness of the fee, the person may have the determination of the charge recomputed by written request to the City Engineer.

(C) Each monthly billing for storm water drainage fees not paid when due shall incur a penalty charge of 10% of the amount past due.

(D) Any past due storm water drainage fees in excess of 90 days past due on October 1 of any year may be certified to the County Auditor for collection with real estate taxes in the following year, pursuant to M.S. § 444.075, Subd. 3e. In addition, the city shall also have the right to bring civil action or to take other legal remedies to collect unpaid fees.