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City of Boerne to create a Stormwater Utility

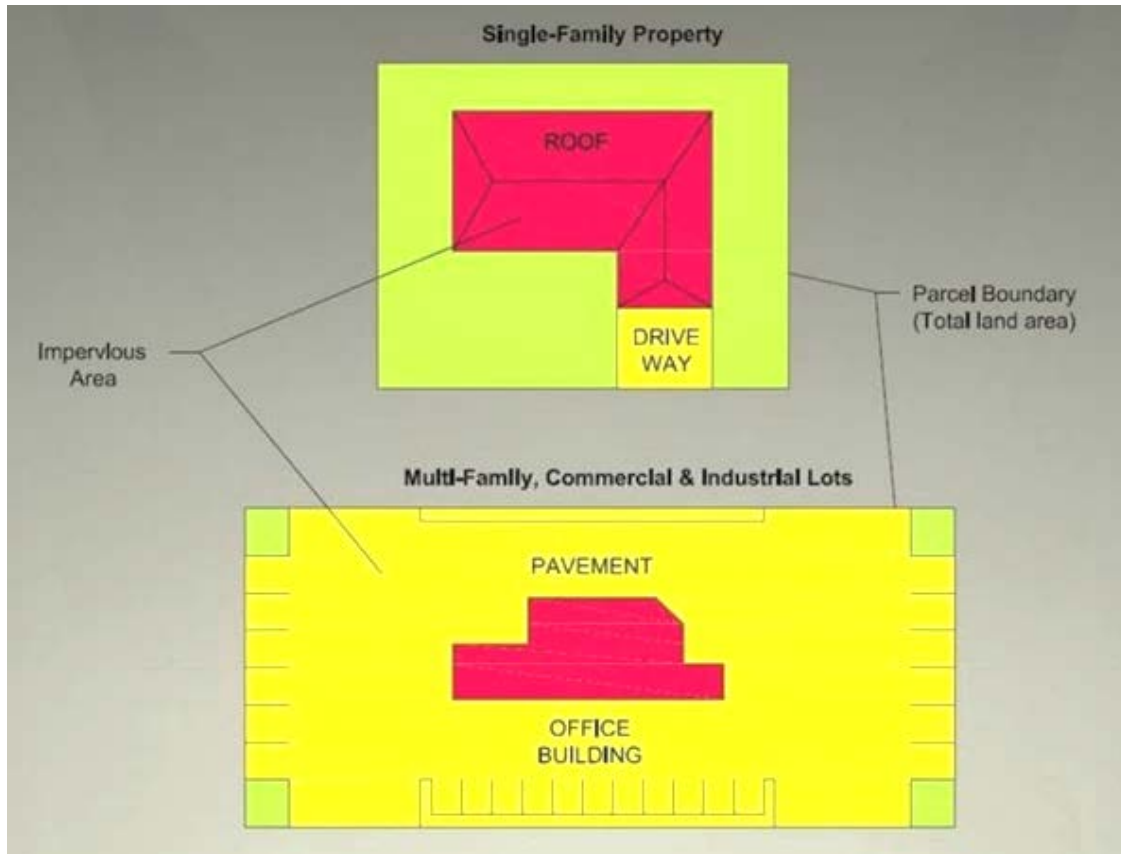
The City of Boerne provides for the installation, operation, and maintenance of drainage infrastructure at various locations in the City. A Stormwater Utility is a user-fee-based funding program to maintain and expand the City's drainage management activities and provide funding for drainage infrastructure needs. The funds collected through the fee will be managed separately from other city funds and will only be available to address the stormwater and drainage needs of the City.

Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 552 provides a funding mechanism for drainage projects, stormwater public education, operation and maintenance of the existing stormwater system and describes the basis on which a municipal stormwater utility system may be created, funded and how fees may be assessed, levied and collected.

The City of Boerne has identified several drainage capital projects throughout the City which would provide for needed drainage improvements. The City plans to do a comprehensive study to create a drainage plan for the City and to further identify and prioritize capital projects. The current project list totals over \$5,000,000 of capital projects. In addition, the City performs maintenance of the existing drainage facilities, such as mowing drainage right-of-way, street sweeping, and repairs, which require \$500,000 in funding.

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The City is proposing a stormwater utility similar to others adopted in the State, where the rate will be based on impervious area. The more impervious area on a parcel, the greater amount of stormwater volume that runs off the property that eventually enters the City's drainage system.



Most cities set a common residential charge – an equivalent residential unit (ERU) based on the average amount of impervious area on residential properties within the City limits. Owners of nonresidential and commercial developed properties that discharge to the City's storm system would be charged a stormwater fee based on the amount of impervious area on the property that is proportionate to the residential ERU fee.

The residential charge in the City of Boerne is proposed to be split into four tiers. The proposed monthly fee for an average single-family property is \$4 per month, which equates to \$48 per year. The fees would be billed using the current Utility Billing System. The fee to be assessed will be dedicated to funding the city's drainage needs.

Residential Stormwater Utility Fee breakdown		
Tier	Square Footage of total impervious area	Cost per month
One	Less than 3,100	\$2.00
Two	Between 3,100 and 5,400	\$4.00
Three	Between 5,400 and 20,000	\$7.60
Four	More than 20,000	\$25.20
Commercial – nonresidential Stormwater Utility Fee calculation		
Non-residential	Actual Square Feet divided by 4,700 X \$4.00	varies

An ordinance for creation of a Stormwater Utility was proposed and approved at the City Council meeting on March 12th. The ordinance is set to be published for public viewing in the Hill Country Weekly on March 21st and The Boerne Star on March 22. There will be an opportunity for public input at the City Council meetings on April 9th and April 23rd. The first billing for the Stormwater Utility is proposed for the January 2020 City of Boerne utility billings. We will continue to post any new information about the Stormwater Utility on the City's website at <https://www.boerne-tx.gov> as well as on the City Hall and Boerne Utilities Facebook pages.

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Boerne Utilities Customer Service Office at 830.249.9511.