PWSA’s Stormwater Story

- Why Stormwater Matters
- The Problem PWSA is Trying to Solve
- PWSA’s Solution
What is stormwater and why does it matter

- Today, Pittsburgh averages 38 inches of rain a year.
- Severe, highly-localized storms frequently overrun the sewer system and treatment capacity.
The Northeast and Pittsburgh are getting much more rain now than we used to.
Occurrences of severe storms have increased dramatically in Allegheny County.
Too much stormwater + sewer water = pollution in our rivers

It doesn’t take much to overflow the system – it can happen with just an inch of rainfall or less.
Our system was not built for this volume of stormwater

- We have more pavement and hard surfaces than we did 100 years ago
- We have more rain, and localized severe storms, than the system is built to handle
- Previously, Pittsburgh has not had a unified stormwater strategy
To tackle our stormwater challenges, PWSA is building an innovative stormwater management system, designed to absorb or redirect as much rainwater as possible before it enters our overburdened sewer system.
Projects like Centre and Herron will transform stormwater management

- Designed to capture and hold excess runoff before it runs into a river
- Also beautifies a neighborhood
Thomas & McPherson Stormwater Project

- North Point Breeze Neighborhood
- A-42 sewershed – one of the highest sewer overflow contributors
- Gravel storage under medians of Thomas and McPherson Blvds and under N. Dallas Ave
- Permeable paver parking lanes along N. Linden Ave with underground gravel storage.
- Permeable paver “green alley” with underground gravel storage in Starling Way
- Project coordination to include water main and lead service line replacements to limit disruptions and costs
- Est completion Fall 2022.
Fleury Way Stormwater Project

- Fleury Way – N. Dallas Ave to N. Murtland St
- Homewood West Neighborhood
- Storm sewer and catchbasin installation.
- Regrading of brick road, including sidewalk and curb replacements
- Est completion December 2021
Right now, PWSA is charging every customer based on how much drinking water they use. That meter reading determines drinking and wastewater rates.

To change how we manage stormwater, we will also change how we bill for stormwater.
Starting in 2022, stormwater will be billed differently

Pending PUC approval

- Every parcel in Pittsburgh has been mapped
- Even if a parcel has no water meter, it will be eligible to pay a stormwater bill to PWSA
- This will be more fair and equitable than billing by meter usage
Rates will be based on an “ERU”

PWSA determined three tiers for all residential properties in Pittsburgh:

- Tier 1 = 400 sq ft – 1,015 sq ft
- Tier 2 = 1,015 sq ft – 2,710 sq ft

Over 70% of PGH residential properties will be Tier 2. This size is our base rate, or Equivalent Residential Unit “ERU”

- Tier 3 = 2,710 sq ft+

All non-residential units will be based on ERU. If a parking lot is 5 ERUs, the parking lot’s stormwater bill will be 5x the approved ERU rate.
## Proposed Stormwater Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stormwater Customer Categories</th>
<th>ERUs</th>
<th>Monthly Rate 2022</th>
<th>Monthly Rate 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Tier I (&gt;=400 sf. to &lt;1,015 sf.)</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>$2.98</td>
<td>$3.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Tier II (&gt;=1,015 sf. to 2,710 sf.)</td>
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<td>$5.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Tier III (&gt;=2,710 sf.)</td>
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<td>$11.92</td>
<td>$15.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-residential</td>
<td>Per ERU</td>
<td>$5.96</td>
<td>$7.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding Our Peers

Monthly Stormwater Fees (per ERU)

- All stormwater programs are different
- Unique operational, infrastructure, climate, and funding challenges
- Locally and nationally, fees vary significantly

![Chart showing monthly stormwater fees for various locations, including Washington, DC, Seattle, Philadelphia, PWSA (2022), PWSA (2023), Lower Paxton Township, Monroeville, Dormont, Mt. Lebanon, Whitehall Borough, PWSA (2023), Meadville, Carlisle, Coraopolis, West Chester Borough, PWSA (2022), and Plum Borough. The fees range from $0 to $12 per ERU.]
Stormwater Fee Credits

• Credits available for both residential and non-residential customers

• Incentivizes property owners to help reduce the impact of stormwater runoff from a property on PWSA’s stormwater management system and our rivers and streams

• **Non-residential customers** – must meet the City of Pittsburgh’s 2019 or 2016 stormwater standards

• **Residential customers** –
  • Disconnect downspouts and redirect property drainage to street planters in targeted areas
  • Control at least ¾-inch of runoff from impervious surfaces using solutions such as raingardens

• PWSA is finalizing the Stormwater Fee Credit Manual and application. These will be available before the fee goes into effect.

• PUC will need to approve credit.
Customer Assistance for Stormwater

Bill Discount Program
• Eligible customers, at or below 150% of federal poverty level and enrolled in the Bill Discount Program, will receive an 85% discount on their applicable stormwater rate each month
• Like the rates, the discount is pending final PUC approval

Customers eligible for a stormwater rate discount are eligible for other benefits in the Bill Discount Program
• 100% discount on the water minimum charge
• 100% discount on the wastewater minimum charge
• Annual hardship grant up to $300

Visit www.pgh2o.com/CAP for more information about our Customer Assistance Programs
Activities the stormwater fee will fund

- **Capital Costs**: design and construction of stormwater projects identified in PWSA’s Capital Program

- **Direct Costs**: Day-to-day maintenance
  - Cleaning catch basins
  - Weeding and maintenance of PWSA raingardens and stormwater infrastructure
  - Meeting state water quality requirements

- **Indirect Costs**: Shared functions that support stormwater, water, and wastewater services
PWSA’s Stormwater Master Planning

- Pittsburgh’s blueprint to address local stormwater challenges
- Visionary team led by PennPraxis and the Water Center at Penn. Final plan June 2022.
- Public engagement of a diverse group of residents, ratepayers and stakeholders to convey the community issues and needs
- Special attention to those most impacted by stormwater issues such as flooding and basement backups, and environmental Justice areas.

For more information review our FAQ
www.pgh2o.com/stormwater-master-plan-faq
Reporting Basement Backups and Flooding

- Call PWSA’s 24/7 Emergency Dispatch (412) 255-2423
- Dispatch uses intake form to collect information from caller
- Send crews to investigate
- Use data to inform future projects
Payoff: Fewer basement backups, less pollution = healthier and better Pittsburgh

By changing how PWSA charges for stormwater, we can over time improve how we manage stormwater and provide multiple benefits
WE CAN REDUCE FLOODING, DECREASE WATER POLLUTION & BUILD NEW STORMWATER SOLUTIONS.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE PITTSBURGH’S INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE BETTER.

Questions or comments, please email Beth Dutton bdutton@pgh2o.com

For more information, please visit www.pgh2ostormwater.com