

STORMWATER CHALLENGES IN THE TOWN OF CEDARBURG

Stormwater infrastructure works quietly behind the scenes every day, but it requires ongoing maintenance and investment to protect homes, roads, waterways, and public property.

Cedarburg's Stormwater Challenges

-  Aging culverts and drainage structures
-  Roadside ditch maintenance
-  Localized flooding concerns
-  Agricultural runoff impacts
-  Stream and wetland protection
-  Regulatory compliance requirements

WHY IT MATTERS

A well-maintained stormwater system helps protect property, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and support the long-term health of Cedar Creek and other local waterways and natural resources.



Stormwater runoff travels through ditches, culverts, streams, and wetlands before ultimately reaching Cedar Creek and other local waterways.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Town of Cedarburg is committed to protecting property, managing stormwater runoff, and preserving the natural resources that make our community unique. Through responsible stewardship of our drainage infrastructure, waterways, wetlands, and public investments, the Stormwater Utility helps safeguard our community today while planning for future generations.

LOOKING AHEAD

Stormwater affects every property, every road, and every waterway in our community. By investing in a dedicated stormwater program, the Town of Cedarburg can maintain critical infrastructure, protect local streams and wetlands, improve resiliency to future challenges, and continue preserving the community we value.

**Together, we are preserving
yesterday's heritage for tomorrow.**

CONTACT US

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STORMWATER UTILITY

Town of Cedarburg



**Protecting Property, Managing Runoff,
and Improving Water Quality**



WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY?

Every time it rains, water runs off roofs, driveways, roads, and other hard surfaces into ditches, culverts, streams, and wetlands. Managing this runoff requires ongoing maintenance and investment.

A Stormwater Utility provides a dedicated funding source to help the Town:

- ☑ Maintain drainage infrastructure
- ☑ Reduce flooding and erosion
- ☑ Protect local streams and wetlands
- ☑ Improve water quality
- ☑ Meet environmental regulations

All funds collected through the utility stay within the stormwater program and are used exclusively for stormwater-related improvements and services.

WHAT DOES THE UTILITY FUND?

Stormwater Utility revenue can only be used for stormwater management activities.

Funding Priorities



Infrastructure Maintenance

- ☑ Ditches
- ☑ Culverts
- ☑ Drainageways



Flood Reduction

- ☑ Problem area improvements
- ☑ Drainage upgrades



Water Quality Protection

- ☑ Runoff management
- ☑ Erosion reduction
- ☑ Stream protection



Regulatory Compliance

- ☑ State and federal permit requirements



Future Capital Improvements

- ☑ Replacement of aging facilities
- ☑ New stormwater projects

HOW MUCH WILL I PAY?

Stormwater Fees are Based on Runoff

Properties with more hard surfaces generally create more runoff and place greater demand on the stormwater system.

What is an ERU?

ERU = Equivalent Runoff Unit

An ERU represents the average amount of impervious area found on a typical single-family residential property.

What is Impervious Surface?

Impervious surfaces prevent water from soaking into the ground.

Examples include:

- 🏠 Roofs
- 🚗 Driveways
- 🚗 Parking Lots

Fee Formula

Stormwater Fee = Number of ERUs × ERU Rate

- 🏠 Single-family homes are assigned 1 ERU.
- 🏢 Larger properties are assigned ERUs based on impervious area.



WHY IS CEDARBURG CONSIDERING A STORMWATER UTILITY?

The Town is responsible for managing a large network of drainage infrastructure and natural waterways.

A Stormwater Utility provides a stable and equitable funding source dedicated solely to these needs.

Every dollar collected stays within the Stormwater Utility Fund and may only be used for stormwater-related purposes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Common Questions

Why isn't this funded through property taxes?

Stormwater services must be maintained regardless of property values. A utility fee assigns costs based on stormwater runoff contribution rather than assessed value.

Will all properties pay the same amount?

No. Fees are generally based on the amount of impervious surface on a property.

Can stormwater revenue be used for other Town services?

No. Revenue may only be used for stormwater-related purposes.

Who oversees the utility?

The Town Board establishes policies, rates, and budgets for the utility.

Who Pays the Fee?

Most developed properties create stormwater runoff and benefit from the Town's stormwater system, so they help share the cost of maintaining and improving the system.

This generally includes:

- 🏠 Homes and residential properties
- 🏢 Businesses and commercial properties
- 🏭 Industrial properties
- 🏛️ Government-owned properties
- 🎓 Many tax-exempt properties, such as schools and churches