

The City of Oak Park recently adopted a modified billing method, which separates stormwater from water and sewer charges. All residential and business property owners will incur a separate line item cost for stormwater utility fees effective July 1, 2020.



### *Information Resources*

For more detailed information about the stormwater utility fee and billing change, please visit the City's web page at:

[www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php](http://www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php).

If you have immediate questions related to the stormwater utility fee, please contact the Finance Department at (248) 691-7470 or [kvandewalle@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:kvandewalle@oakparkmi.gov).



# **IMPORTANT!**

## **CHANGES TO YOUR WATER AND SEWER BILL EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020**

Residential Customers



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SOUTHFIELD, MI  
PERMIT #63

## Why the change?

In 2016, the City of Oak Park was one of several cities in the state of Michigan confronted by a class-action lawsuit, which challenged the City's approach to billing stormwater treatment costs. The result of the recent lawsuit settlement requires the City of Oak Park to change the billing method to reflect each property's unique contribution to stormwater runoff into the sewer system. The City is required to implement billing changes by July 1, 2020.

## What does this mean?

Most Oak Park residential customers will notice an overall bill decrease, while others experience a slight increase.

## What is the basis of the charges?

Stormwater originates from rainfall and melting snow and ice. Stormwater that does not evaporate can either soak into the ground, accumulate on land surfaces (which can cause flooding), or run off into the sewer system. The stormwater rate, which is based on the amount of stormwater a property discharges into the sewer system, depends on property size and how much of that property is occupied by pervious and impervious surfaces. Pervious surfaces, such as grass and dirt, allow rainwater to seep into the soil, while rainwater on impervious surfaces – such as cement or asphalt driveways and rooftops – runs off into the sewer system.

## Virtual town hall for Oak Park residents

**On June 25th at 6:00 p.m.**, City Manager Erik Tungate, and his administrative staff, will host an online forum to provide Oak Park residential customers with additional information about the billing changes. The web-based meeting will take place using a videoconferencing platform. There will be an opportunity for questions from participants.

**To participate in the Town Hall for Oak Park Residents, please visit the City's web site at [www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php](http://www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php) to log into the virtual event at least 10 minutes prior to the posted start time.** Please note: The Town Hall for Oak Park Residents will be recorded and accessible through the City's website and social media pages following the event.

*Example of how the modified billing process would affect an average residential customer:*

	2019-20 BILL	2020-21 BILL
<b>WATER &amp; SEWER USAGE</b>	20 UNITS	20 UNITS
<b>STORMWATER RUNOFF</b>	0.58 UNITS	0.58 UNITS
Meter	4.75	4.75
Water Consumption	85.00	90.20
Sewer Usage	210.60	97.20
Stormwater Runoff	0	87.24
Subtotal	300.35	279.39
Garbage & Rubbish	38.72	38.72
<b>Total Quarterly Bill - Residential</b>	<b>339.07</b>	<b>318.11</b>