

## KEY FACTS ABOUT STORM WATER UTILITY

- Cities typically have a ditch and levee assessment to pay for maintenance and repairs of the storm water system, and to meet regulatory requirements for storm water quantity, storm water quality, and levee system operations.
- Our community has had nothing in place to pay for the operation and maintenance of the storm water infrastructure, which includes pipes, ditches, creeks, and the levee. This infrastructure has not always been maintained to necessary levels over the years due to the lack of funds.
- Sanitary sewer funds and city tax revenues have typically been used to operate and maintain storm water facilities at minimum levels. They are no longer adequate.
- In order to address this need, the Utilities Services Board studied the problem and supported the City Council passage of Ordinance 4-2010, effective July 2010. The ordinance provides for a storm water usage fee, similar to water and sewer fees. It is based on the amount of impervious surface, which is a hard surface like pavement and gravel that water cannot soak in to and runs off of into the storm collection system.
- Based on the increase of local flooding problems, serious maintenance issues exist with Kelso Creek, Mantle Ditch, City Ditch, and within neighborhoods in the City. Vincennes is also required to meet federal levee certification by FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- The usage fee is \$3 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) per month and will be mailed semi-annually in six month increments.
- An ERU is an average of the impervious area of all residential lots in the City as determined by a study in 2008. The ordinance states that each property will be billed at least one ERU.
- Non-residential property (multi-family, commercial, industrial, etc.) is charged based on the actual amount of impervious surface. This distributes the fee over the users like Wal-Mart and Vincennes University that have more runoff than residential property.
- All entities have to pay this fee, even those that are tax exempt, because they still have water that runs off their property and flows through the City collection system.
- The billing is based on property owners, not utility customers, so the bill cannot be combined with sewer and water bills.
- The property owner information is based on the most current courthouse records. Ordinance 4-2010, appeal forms and common property consolidation forms are available at [www.vinutilities.com](http://www.vinutilities.com) and at the Vincennes Water Utilities office at 403 Busseron St.