**What services are provided with the storm water fee revenue?**

The storm water fee funds a variety of services through SD1’s Regional Storm Water Management Program. SD1’s storm water services include:

- Detecting and eliminating illegal connections and failing private sewer systems that are discharging into local streams, potentially harming public health.
- Looking for pollution runoff and the dumping of hazardous materials into local storm water systems, ditches and streams.
- Managing construction site runoff to prevent flooding and erosion, which can disrupt property and roads.
- Monitoring Northern Kentucky’s streams to understand the causes of flooding and erosion that damage private property and public infrastructure.
- Operating, maintaining and upgrading the public storm sewer system that protects properties and roads from flooding throughout the service area.

**When it comes to the storm water system, what is the responsibility of SD1, local cities and property owners?**

SD1 is responsible for hundreds of miles of publicly owned storm sewers (closed-pipe systems) and thousands of associated storm structures, such as detention basins. Cities and counties are responsible for roadside ditches, culverts, curb and gutter systems and the maintenance of storm catch basin grates. Homeowners and local businesses remain responsible for storm systems that convey storm water solely from private property. For a complete list of the cities and counties where SD1 is currently operating and maintaining the public storm sewer systems, visit www.SD1.org.

**What if there are no storm sewers on or near my property; do I need to pay the storm water fee?**

Any property with a roof, driveway or other impervious surface can contribute to storm water issues, including flooding, erosion and poor water quality. In order to effectively manage storm water, SD1 charges a storm water service fee to any such property within our service area boundary. Areas that don’t have storm sewer pipes still benefit from SD1’s storm water services. For example, SD1 regulates what goes down public storm water pipes to keep pollution out of the rivers and creeks that customers rely on for drinking water and recreation. The storm water fee supports this work.

To report storm water pollution or flooding problems, or to gather more information about SD1’s storm water program, please call SD1 at 859-578-7450.
**What is storm water runoff and why is it a problem?**

Storm water runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt is unable to soak into the ground due to impervious surfaces, including asphalt or concrete sidewalks and driveways, rooftops, parking lots and streets. If not properly managed, storm water runoff can lead to erosion and flooding that may damage homes and landscaping, make travel dangerous and harm recreation and wildlife habitats. As it moves over the land, storm water runoff can pick up pollution that is washed into nearby street drains, most of which empty directly into streams that we use for drinking water and recreation.

**Why has SD1 implemented a regional storm water management program?**

Under the Clean Water Act, the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) requires designated communities to provide services to manage storm water runoff. Prioritizing customer service, more than 30 Northern Kentucky cities and counties recognized that a regional approach to storm water management is more efficient and cost effective for our communities. These cities and counties sought SD1’s expertise and signed an agreement requiring SD1 to provide storm water services on their behalf.

**How is the storm water fee determined?**

The storm water fee is based on the amount of impervious surface area on each property. Properties within the storm water service area are divided into two categories: residential and non-residential.

**Residential**

Based on a statistical analysis of residential properties in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties, SD1 learned that the average impervious area per property is 2,652 square feet. Based on this data, SD1 has designated an equivalent residential unit (ERU) equal to 2,600 square feet. All residential properties are charged a single flat monthly fee based on one ERU.

**Non-residential**

Non-residential property owners, including schools, churches and local governments, are billed monthly or quarterly based on the number of ERUs represented by the impervious area of the property. They are charged the current storm water fee for every 2,600 square feet of impervious area on the property. Properties classified as agricultural or that do not have any impervious surfaces may be exempt from SD1’s storm water fee.

To see a complete list of current storm water fees, visit www.sd1.org.

**What are the effects of storm water pollution on local waterways?**

Polluted storm water can affect plants, fish, other animals and people.
- Polluted storm water drains to drinking water sources. This can threaten public health and increase drinking water treatment costs.
- Bacteria can wash into swimming and fishing areas and create health hazards.
- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult for aquatic plants to grow.
- Household hazardous wastes, such as pesticides, paint and used motor oil, can kill wildlife.
- Excess nutrients from over-fertilizing can wash into streams, leading to algae blooms and other problems in local waterbodies that make it difficult for fish and other aquatic organisms to survive.

**How are SD1’s storm water service area boundaries determined?**

SD1’s storm water service area does not follow city or county boundaries and is ultimately approved by KDOW. In 2018, SD1 revised its storm water service area to focus more on urbanized areas in Northern Kentucky. A property could be considered to be in an urbanized area if:
- The property is located within the boundaries of an SD1 co-permittee city (a city that shares the responsibility with SD1 for meeting the federally regulated storm water management requirements for the Northern Kentucky region).
- The property is located within a Designated Urban Area according to the most recent U.S. Census data.
- The property is near urban infrastructure, such as sanitary or storm sewer infrastructure.

To see a complete list of current storm water fees, visit www.sd1.org.