



# SD1

Managing Northern Kentucky's  
Wastewater and Storm Water



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

**A** SD1 is responsible for hundreds of miles of publicly owned storm sewers (closed-pipe systems) and thousands of associated storm water structures. Cities and counties are responsible for roadside ditches, culverts, curb and gutter systems and the maintenance of storm catch basin grates. Property owners are responsible for storm water features that convey storm water solely from private property.

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

**A** 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 streams that customers rely on for drinking water and recreation. The storm water fee supports this work.

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

- A** The storm water fee funds a variety of services through SD1's Regional Storm Water Management Program, including:
- ▶ Detecting and eliminating illegal connections and failing private sewer systems that discharge to local streams, potentially harming public health.
  - ▶ Looking for polluted storm water runoff and the dumping of hazardous materials into local storm water systems, ditches and streams.
  - ▶ Managing construction site runoff to prevent flooding and erosion.
  - ▶ Monitoring Northern Kentucky's streams to understand the causes of flooding and erosion that damage private property and public infrastructure.
  - ▶ Operating and maintaining the public storm sewer system to better handle the needs of the region.

### **Report a problem**

Call us at 859-578-7450 to report storm water pollution or flooding issues.

### **Learn more**

Visit [sd1.org](http://sd1.org) for more information about SD1's Regional Storm Water Management Program.



# WHEN IT RAINS



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# IT DRAINS

## REGIONAL STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## Q What is storm water runoff and why is it a problem?

A Storm water runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt is unable to soak into the ground due to impervious surfaces, such as driveways, rooftops, parking lots and streets. Unmanaged storm water runoff can lead to erosion and flooding that may damage homes and landscaping, make travel dangerous and harm wildlife habitats. As it moves over the land, storm water runoff picks up pollution and flows to storm drains, most of which empty directly into streams that we rely on for drinking water and recreation.

## Q How does storm water pollution impact local waterways and the environment?

- A
  - ▶ Polluted storm water drains to drinking water sources, which can threaten public health and increase drinking water treatment costs.
  - ▶ Bacteria can wash into swimming and fishing areas, creating health hazards.
  - ▶ Sediment can cloud the water and smother habitats needed by fish and other aquatic life.
  - ▶ Household hazardous wastes, such as pesticides, paint and used motor oil, can kill wildlife.
  - ▶ Nutrients from excess fertilizer can wash into streams, leading to algae blooms and other problems in local bodies of water that make it difficult for fish and other aquatic life to survive.



## Q Why has SD1 implemented a regional storm water management program?

A 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 to partner with SD1 on storm water management.



## Q How is SD1's storm water service area boundary determined?

- A SD1's storm water service area does not follow city limits and is ultimately approved by KDOW. The storm water service area focuses on urbanized areas in Northern Kentucky. Your property may be in our storm water service area if:
  - ▶ It is located within the boundaries of an SD1 co-permittee city (a city that shares responsibility with SD1 to meet federally regulated storm water management requirements in the Northern Kentucky region).
  - ▶ It is located within a Designated Urban Area according to the most recent U.S. Census data.
  - ▶ It is near urban infrastructure, such as sanitary or storm sewer systems.

## Q How is the storm water fee determined?

A 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 actual 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 view our current storm water fees, visit [sd1.org](http://sd1.org).