



# SWM FEE EXEMPTIONS



The Surface Water Management (SWM) program improves water quality, protects fish habitat and manages drainage. In urbanized Washington County, property owners pay fees that fund the SWM program managed by Clean Water Services in coordination with partner organizations. Occasionally, a homeowner may qualify to not pay this fee. This fact sheet describes the exemption criteria and application process.

## Exemption application process

If all stormwater runoff from a property is disposed of and treated on site, a property may qualify for an exemption. There are two approved methods. One is an approved dry well or other detention facility; the other is a large on-site vegetated area that treats runoff prior to leaving the property. If you believe your property may qualify for a SWM fee exemption, the first step is to request an exemption packet from the Clean Water Services Engineering Department. If you are billed directly by one of our member cities, please contact them for an exemption packet.

A completed SWM Fee Exemption application includes:

- A detailed plot plan with dimensions and locations of all impervious surfaces or a detailed plan of the on-site disposal system including plans, certificates and records.
- A check for the exemption application fee, found in the CWS Rates & Charges.

## What does the SWM fee pay for?

In cooperation with Washington County and our 12 member cities, we:

- Maintain the public stormwater conveyance system
- Sweep curbed, public streets and clean storm drains
- Provide 24-hour emergency response to flooding and water pollution complaints
- Monitor water quality in the Tualatin River and its tributaries
- Enforce buffer zones between new development and creeks and wetlands
- Build regional water quality, stream enhancement and flood management projects
- Conduct watershed planning for the long-term health of our urban streams
- Provide public education and outreach
- Manage the Private Water Quality Facility Management Program

## Who pays?

Each resident of the community contributes to the cost of the SWM program because we all use the buildings, streets, parking lots and sidewalks that contribute to the potential impacts on water quality resulting from stormwater runoff. The average residential property owner pays around \$8 a month, and larger properties pay more.

## Resources

- Learn more about the SWM program and what you can do to prevent water pollution: [cleanwaterservices.org/stormwater](http://cleanwaterservices.org/stormwater)
- Access the form diagram for a vegetative exemption: [bit.ly/2tqX3g2](http://bit.ly/2tqX3g2)
- Access the form diagram for a drywell exemption: [bit.ly/2rAL664](http://bit.ly/2rAL664)
- Fill out an exemption application: [bit.ly/2snNdNq](http://bit.ly/2snNdNq)
- Learn more about rates & charges: [cleanwaterservices.org/budget](http://cleanwaterservices.org/budget)

Everything we do at Clean Water Services aims to protect public health while enhancing the natural environment of the Tualatin River Watershed.