



## **Avon to send test bills for new stormwater utility**

*New system includes equitable rates, shorter maintenance cycles and improved customer service*

**AVON, Ind.** – Local citizens, businesses and organizations will soon receive a test bill for the Town of Avon’s newly formed stormwater utility. The bill seeks to reach all property owners in town limits to ensure the utility has the correct person and contact information. Town officials plan to send the test bill on March 1.

The Town of Avon has placed a high emphasis on preventing flooding and standing water caused by rain events. Flooding and standing water can cause a risk to life, lead to property damage and create public health issues such as mosquitos.

Making a decision to control its own fate in this area, the Avon Town Council last year voted to form an Avon-owned-and-operated stormwater utility. Avon researched the issue for several years and worked closely with county officials on the transition.

The Town has experienced significant growth during the past 20 years, which places a higher demand on already limited resources. There was also a previous overlap of stormwater maintenance with the Hendricks County Surveyor that results in a duplication of services and inefficiencies.

With the new utility, Avon will be better positioned to address capital needs, improve responsiveness, eliminate the duplication of services and improve management of the community’s stormwater infrastructure.

Avon Director of Public Works Ryan Cannon says the new utility provides the necessary authority and flexibility to properly manage the town’s stormwater infrastructure.

“We have roughly \$3.3 million in capital stormwater needs right now, and previously there was no funding mechanism to complete those projects,” said Cannon. “Avon will now be able to address these needs, which will help prevent costly and dangerous flooding.”

A 2016 feasibility study recommended an equitable, research-based structure for potential customer rates. The town accomplished this by instituting rates based upon the amount of impervious surface area on each property, a term used for how much property is covered by impenetrable materials (asphalt, concrete, roofs, etc.).

An average home’s impervious area – 3,942 sq. ft. – established the base billing unit, called the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Residential customers will be charged one ERU per month, while non-residential customers will be charged multiple ERUs per month based on the property’s total impervious area divided by 3,942 sq. ft.

Most Avon residents previously paid around \$100 annually to the Hendricks County Surveyor’s Office to maintain legal drains in their neighborhood. The payment was included with property taxes and will now be eliminated from tax bills. Homeowner payments will now decrease to approximately \$72 annually and

will be paid to the new stormwater utility. Some residents currently pay less than the \$72 amount, but a majority of residents will see a decrease in payments coupled with an increase in maintenance and customer service.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the purpose and mission of the stormwater utility?

Avon has seen significant population growth, and this positive trend is expected to continue. Unfortunately, our stormwater infrastructure is more than 20 years old and has not kept pace with growth. Avon has roughly \$3 million in capital stormwater needs RIGHT NOW, and prior to the stormwater utility, there was no previous funding mechanism to complete those projects.

The stormwater utility benefits Avon and utility customers in several ways:

- More balanced rates
- Shorter assessment and maintenance cycles
- Improved customer service

### 2. What are the customer rates?

In 2016, Avon town officials commissioned a feasibility study to look at an equitable, research-based structure for potential customer rates. The study calculated the average impervious area from the residential customer class to establish the base billing unit, called the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).

Residential customers are charged one ERU per billing cycle. Other customer classes are charged multiple ERUs per billing cycle based on the property's impervious area ratio to the base billing unit.

Customer Rates			
Category	Residential	Non-residential	Rail Yard
Rate (\$/ERU/month)	\$6	\$4	\$2

### 3. I already pay a drain fee to Hendricks County. Are we going to be double charged?

No. Now that Avon has formed a stormwater utility, it will be owned, operated and maintained by the Town. County drain fees have been eliminated from your tax bill.

### 4. Who can I contact for more information or additional questions?

For questions about your utility account, including payment options and other account-specific information, please call (833) 286-9057.

For general utility questions, or to report a drainage problem, please call (317) 272-0948.