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STORMWATER & FLOOD RESILIENCE UTILITY PUBLIC MEETING #2

October 17, 2023

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Stormwater

Community Services | Dover, NH



Photo: Rich Beauschesne



Agenda

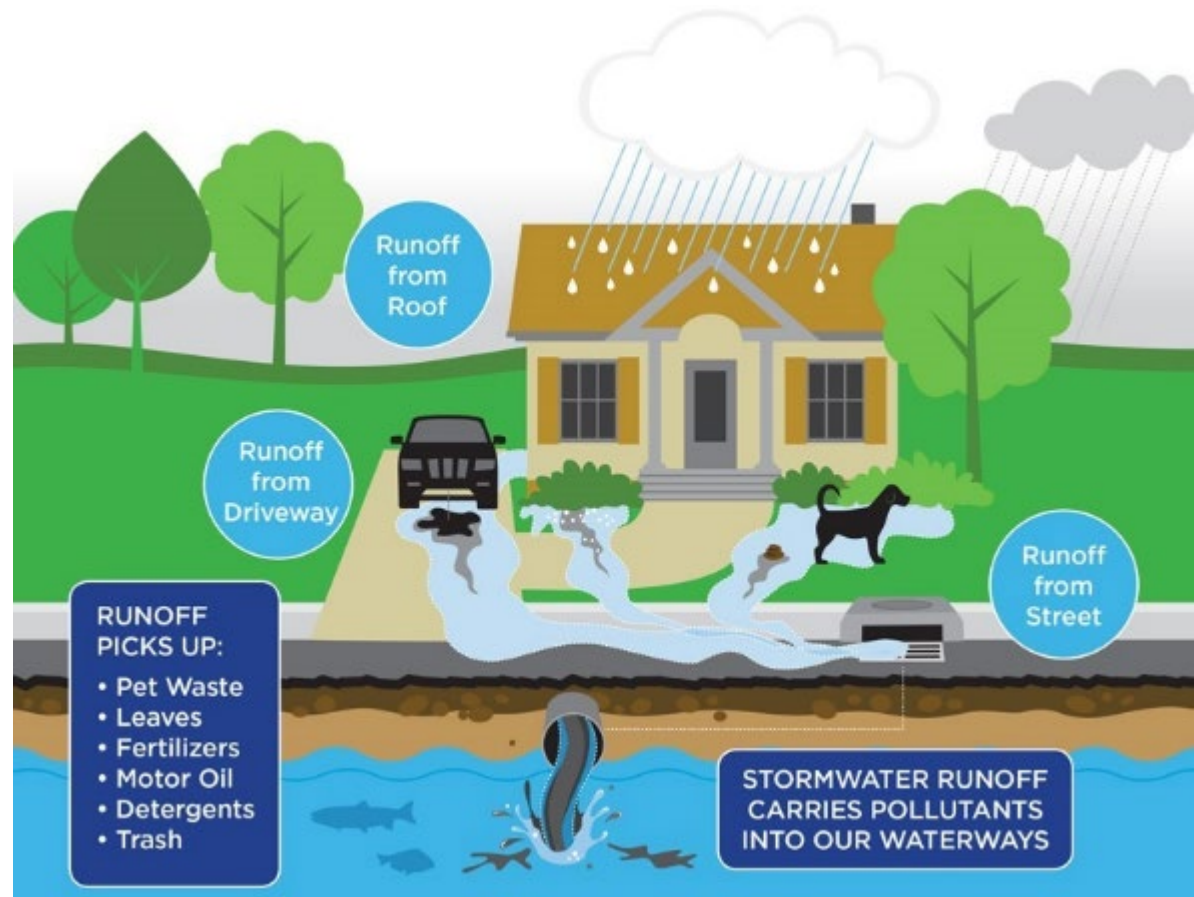
What is Stormwater?

Benefits of a Stormwater Utility

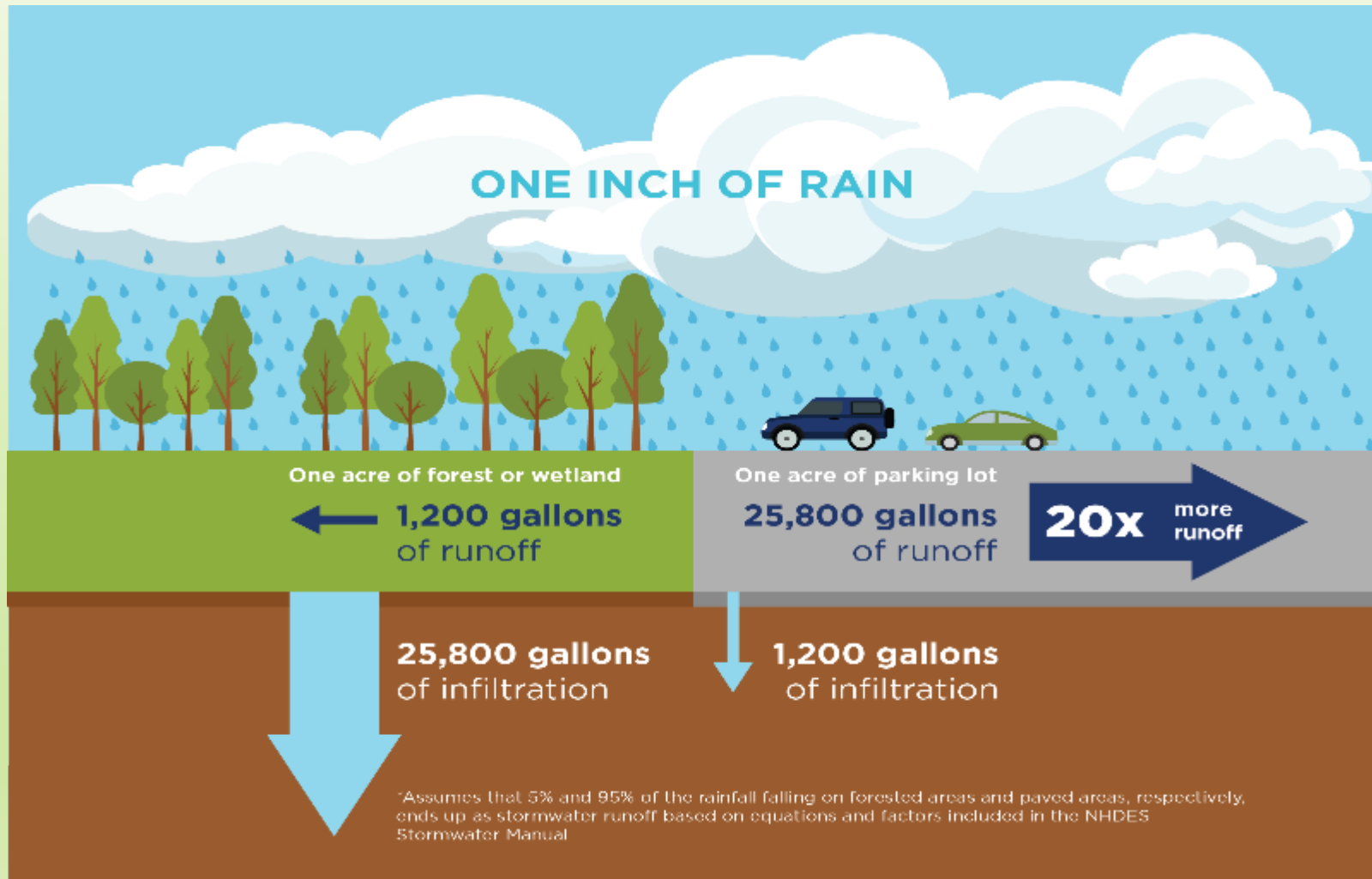
How Would A Stormwater Utility Work?

Next Steps

What is stormwater?



More Impervious Area = More Runoff



Increasing Flood Risks



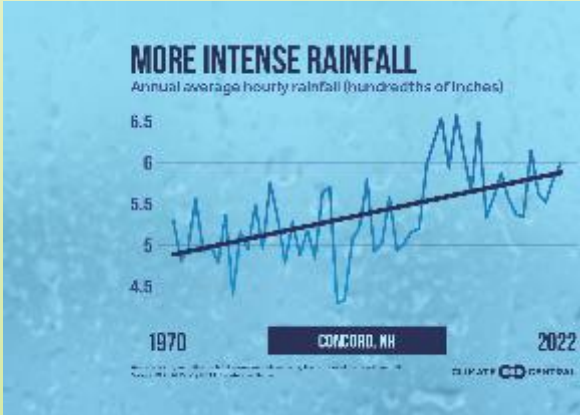
Extreme Rain Events on the Rise

In last 3 months, at least 4 storms in NE with 6-9 inches of rain (> 100 yr storm event)

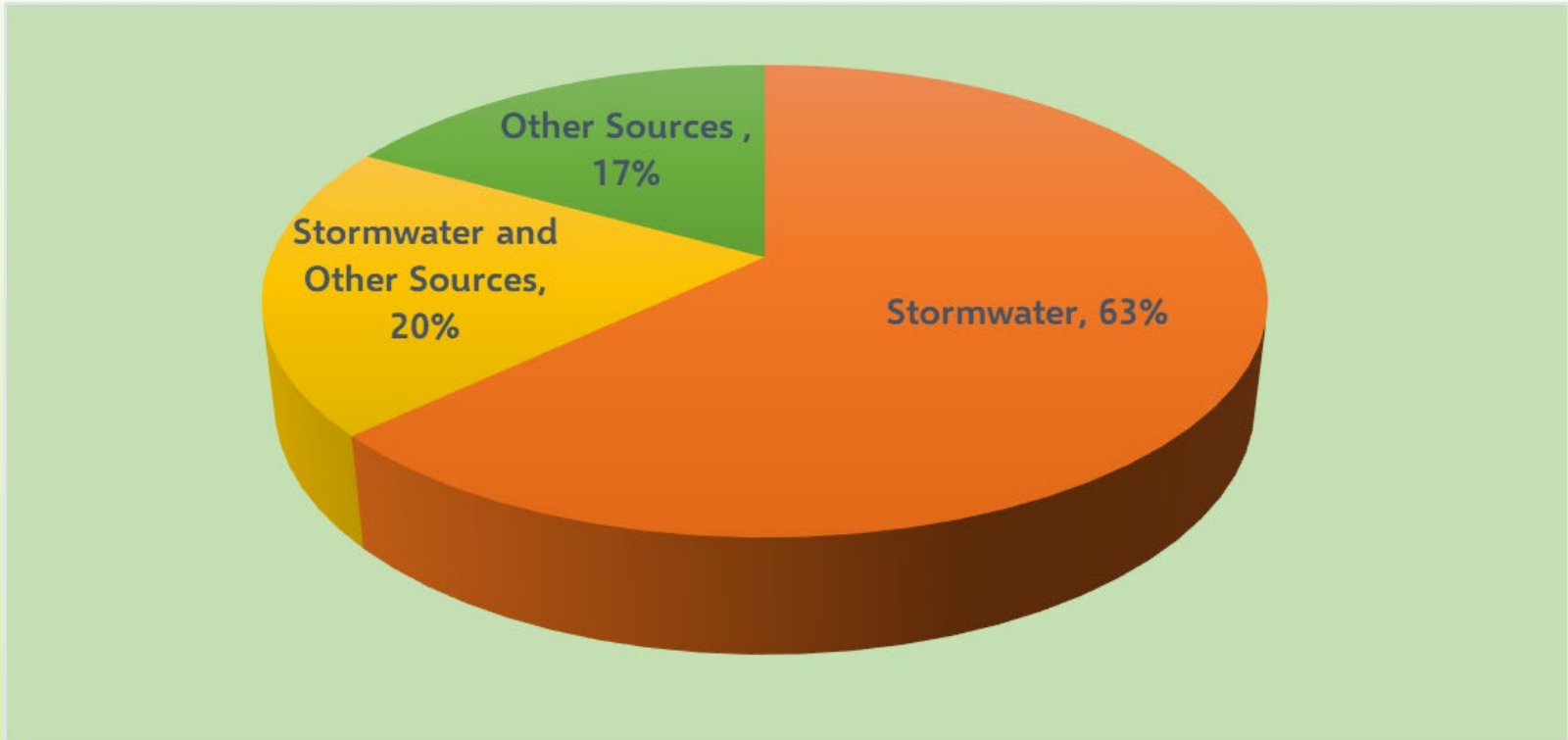
Nearly \$80 million in property value and infrastructure in flood prone areas

Flood Mitigation Projects on hold

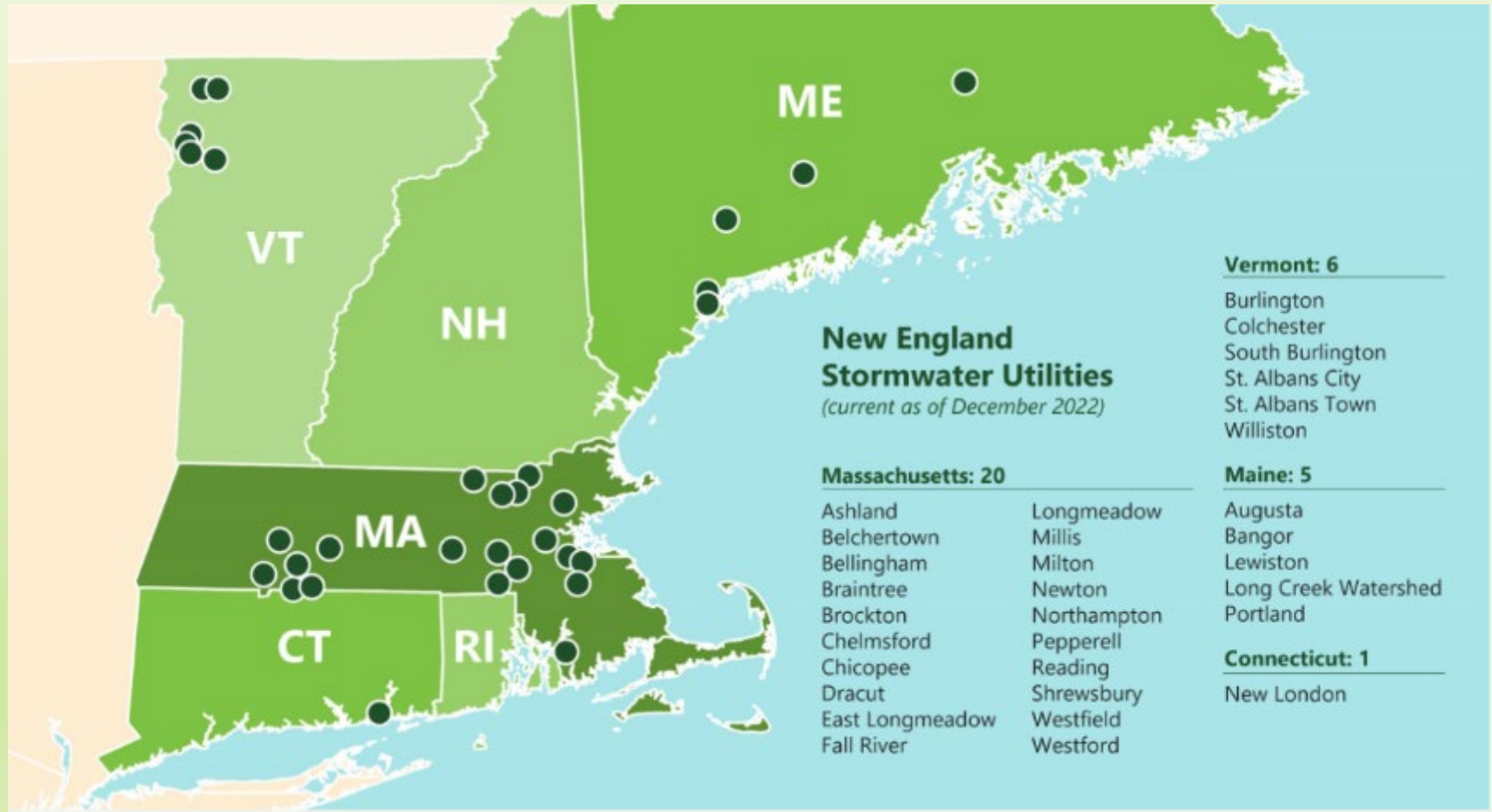
\$5 Million in flood resiliency projects identified to reduce future flooding



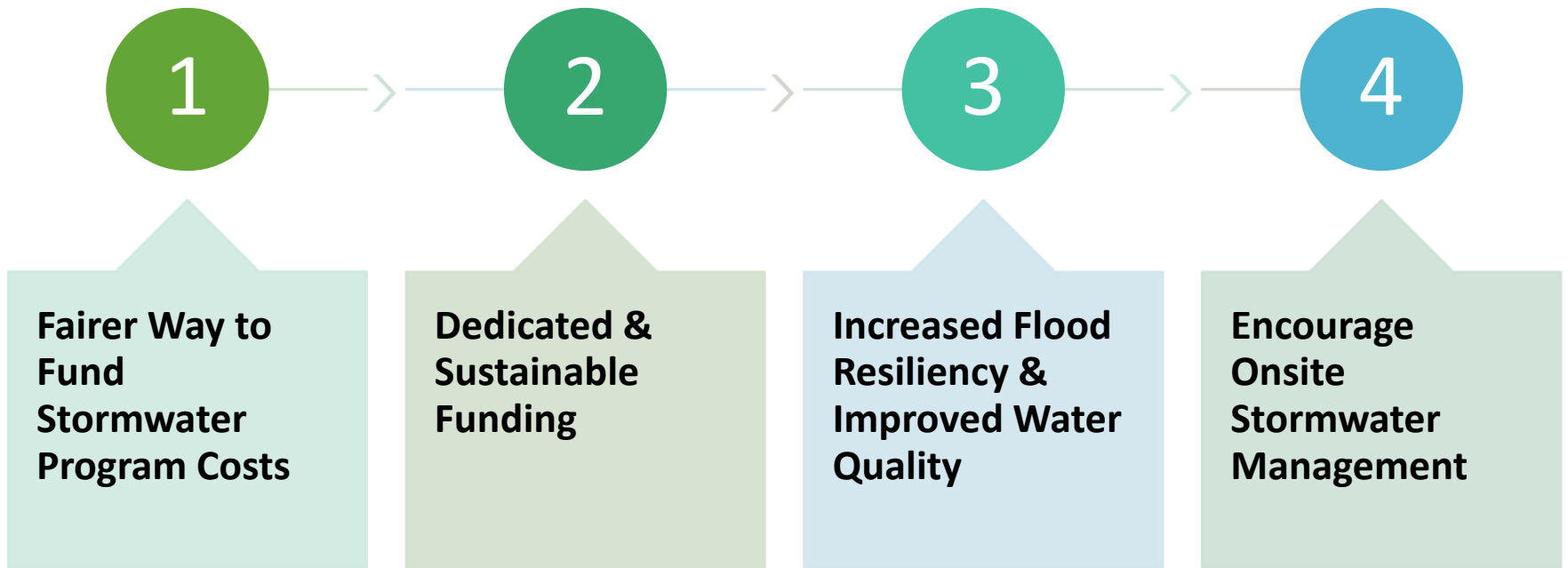
Water Quality Impairments in NH



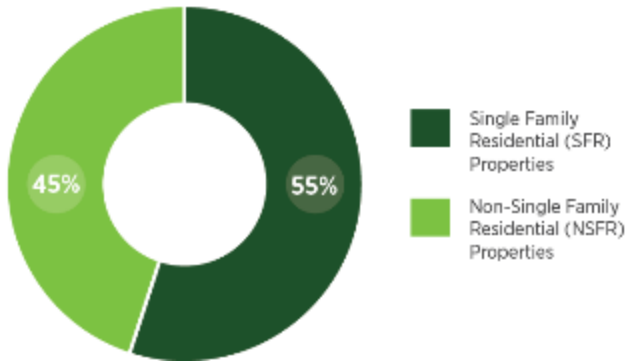
Over 30 New England Communities Have a Stormwater Utility



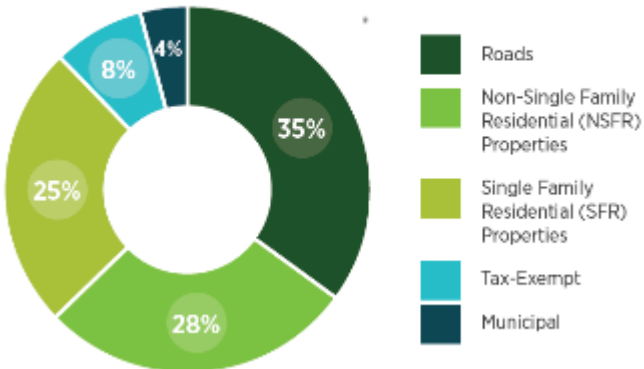
Key Reasons to Adopt a Utility Fee



Current Property Tax Contributions to Fund Stormwater Budget



Potential Revenue Contributions Under Future Utility Fee System



1

Fairer Way to Fund Stormwater Program

Current

- **SFR property owners currently pay ~ 55%** of the SW costs via property taxes but have only 25% of the IC area

Proposed Utility

- **SFR property owners would pay ~ 25%** of SW costs
- More than 70% of the SW costs funded by commercial property and roads
- Tax-exempt properties would help to fund the Stormwater Program

2

Dedicated Funding for Stormwater Program & Capital Projects

Popular Misconception

Stormwater Utility funds are used to pay for new programs or wish list of new projects.

Reality

- Funds are used to pay for current operations and infrastructure needs.
- Utility Funds can only be used for stormwater expenses.

Current Approach

Stormwater program competes for General Fund dollars, making long term planning and proactive management of system very difficult

3

Essential Expenditures for Flood Resiliency & Water Quality Improvements

Expenditures include:

- Operating and maintaining stormwater system
- Capital investments to improve system
- Debt payments for prior capital projects

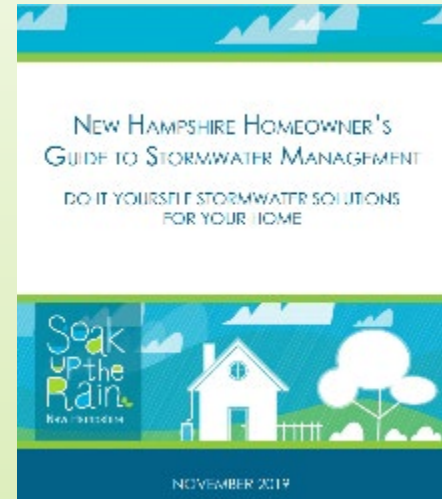
Total Annual Stormwater Expenditures



4

Encourage Onsite Stormwater Management

- **Stormwater fee credit** will reduce property-based fees for qualifying onsite/offsite stormwater management measures done by property owners
- Credits for:
 - ✓ Infiltration
 - ✓ Rain gardens
 - ✓ Dry wells
 - ✓ Porous pavement
 - ✓ Nitrogen pledge
 - ✓ Stormwater BMPs
 - ✓ Public participation
 - ✓ Offsite stormwater management



How would a stormwater fee work?

- Property owners would fund the stormwater system based on amount of potential runoff from their property
- Potential runoff is based on impervious area on property
- Median single-family property in Dover has 3,200 square feet of impervious area
- 1 Equivalent Residential Unit: ERU



Impervious Area

Roof: 1,700 sq. ft.

Walkway: 300 sq. ft.

Driveway: 1,200 sq. ft.

Total: 3,200 sq. ft. = 1 ERU

How would a stormwater fee work?

- Property owners with more impervious area would pay more to fund the stormwater system



Impervious Area

Roof: 22,000 sq. ft.

Parking Lot: 10,000 sq. ft.

Total: 32,000 sq. ft. = 10 ERUs

Stormwater Fee Structure

Impervious Area (Sq. Ft.)	ERUs	Monthly Fee	Annual Fee
400 - 1,600	0.5	\$6.66	\$79.97
1,601 - 4,800	1.0	\$13.32	\$159.89
4,801 - 8,000	2.0	\$26.65	\$319.77
8,000 - 11,200	3.0	\$39.97	\$479.66
Over 11,200	Per 3,200 sq. ft.*	\$13.32	\$159.89

**Rounded up to nearest whole ERU*

Example Single-Family Properties



Impervious Area (sq. ft.)	1,332
ERUs	0.5
Annual Stormwater Fee	\$80



Impervious Area (sq. ft.)	3,200
ERUs	1
Annual Stormwater Fee	\$160



Impervious Area (sq. ft.)	12,000
ERUs	4
Annual Stormwater Fee	\$640

Example Commercial Properties



Impervious Area (sq. ft.)	10,658
ERUs	3
Annual Stormwater Fee	\$480

Impervious Area (sq. ft.)	19,689
ERUs	7
Annual Stormwater Fee	\$1,120

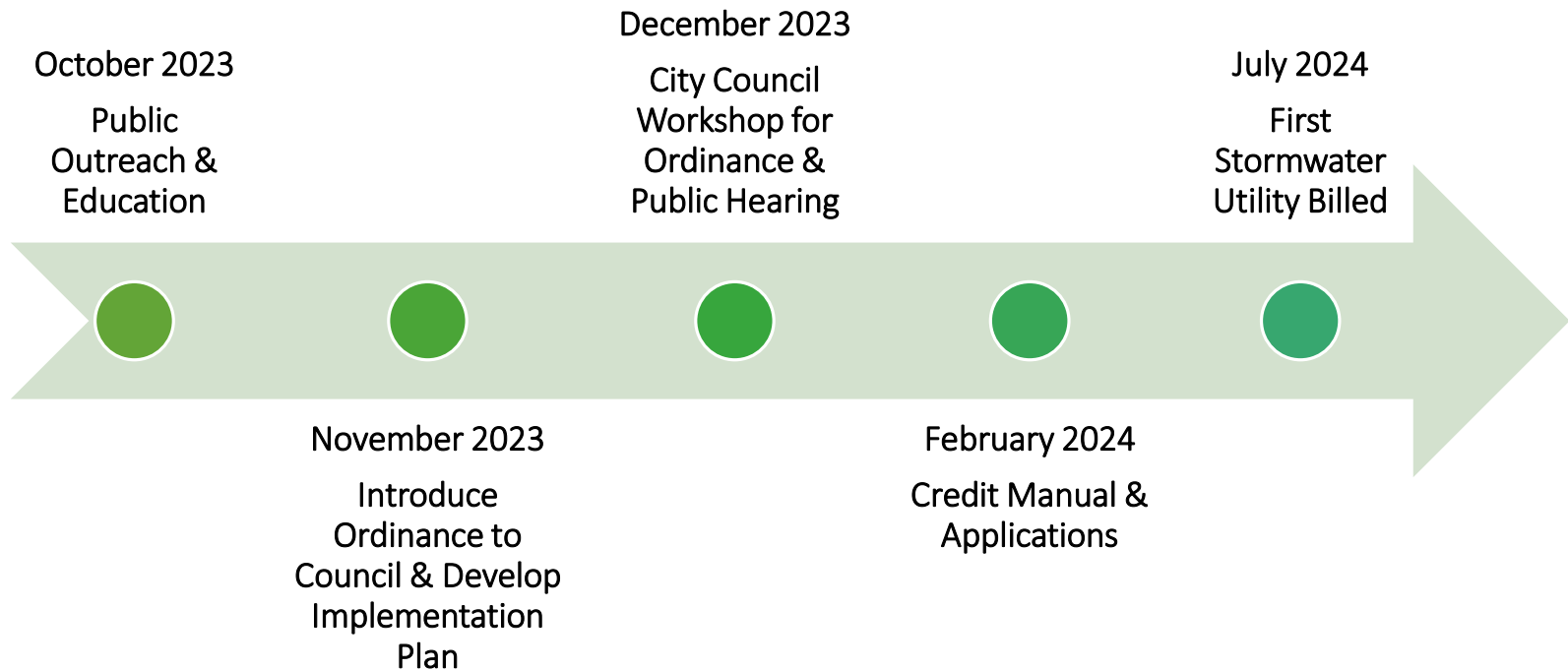
Impervious Area (sq. ft.)	70,200
ERUs	22
Annual Stormwater Fee	\$3,520



Summary

- Charged based on impervious area and contribution of stormwater runoff
- Utility fee can only be spent on stormwater program and improvements for water quality and flood resilience
- Monthly Fee of \$13.32 per Equivalent Residential Unit
- Credits offered to all developed property
- All property types included in fee

Next Steps





Info Stations

Questions/Comments at
info stations

Comment cards available