

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2014 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Discussion of Changes to Stormwater Utility Residential Credits and Incentives	Resolution Ordinance Motion ✓ Discussion Only	David Fieldman Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

At the request of Commissioner Hose, a discussion regarding the stormwater utility credits and incentives for residential parcels has been placed on the New Business agenda.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2011-2018 identified *Exceptional Municipal Services, Top Quality Infrastructure and Steward of Financial & Environmental Sustainability*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to the Council Policy on Council Agendas, the agenda item shall be a discussion item only to allow for the Council as an elected body to direct whether staff and legal counsel should further research the issue and prepare the appropriate form of action for consideration at a later date, as determined by the Village Council.

Staff recommends action at the discretion of the Council.

BACKGROUND

Commissioner Hose recently submitted the following New Business item request:

The Village Council recently approved removing property owned by not-for-profits from the Stormwater Utility, reducing the funding in the Utility by 8% while obtaining no reduction in the amount of stormwater runoff or any effort to mitigate stormwater runoff. The effect of this is to increase the burden on other property owners in Downers Grove, residents and businesses, either in the form of higher fees to make up the lost revenue or the threat of continued flooding that otherwise could have been mitigated if not for reduced maintenance and capital expenditures as a result of the exemption given to NFPs.

I would like to propose on New Business a renewed focus on 1) residents who pay into the Stormwater Utility; and 2) reducing the amount of impermeable space in our Village.

The Village's credit and incentive manual currently provides a \$25 incentive for rain barrels (Section 3.2.1), a \$300 incentive for the installation of permeable pavers (Section 3.2.3) and a \$250 incentive for the installation of other facilities such as a green roof, dry wells, cisterns, and the like (Section 3.2.4).

In order to provide additional relief for residents and increase the incentive to take measures to reduce impermeable space, I would like to propose the following:

- *the \$25 incentive for rain barrels be increased to \$50;*
- *the \$300 incentive for the installation of permeable pavers be increased to 50% of the cost of purchase and installation up to \$2,500; and*
- *the \$250 incentive for the installation of other facilities be increased to 50% of the cost of purchase and installation up to \$2,500.*

These increased incentives will further encourage our residents to take action to reduce their own stormwater runoff; reduce their impermeable footprint, which offers the possibility of reducing their stormwater utility fee depending upon their ERU classification; and work in tandem with additional regulations that the Village will consider regarding zero net impact on new construction or redevelopment.

The Village operates a stormwater utility where all owners of properties, except properties that are exempt from paying property tax, are charged a monthly fee for the cost of providing stormwater management services. The fee is based on the amount of impervious area located on the property.

It is the intent of the Village to encourage property owners to proactively manage stormwater on their property by incorporating sustainable stormwater management practices that reduce the negative impact of development on the drainage system. To acknowledge the impact that on-site stormwater management can have on the Village's stormwater management program costs, a credit and incentive manual for the stormwater utility fee has been developed. Credit programs are a process through which stormwater utility fees can be reduced on a recurring basis, while incentives are a one-time reduction of the fee. The Credit and Incentive Manual is online here: http://www.downers.us/public/docs/Stormwater_%20Management/CREDITINCENTIVEMANUAL2015.pdf.

Incentives

An incentive is a one-time reduction in the stormwater utility fee, applied to a customer's account balance. It is offered to assist property owners with the cost of materials, construction and installation of qualifying stormwater facilities.

Incentives are available for qualifying rain barrels, rain gardens, permeable pavers and other projects that reduce the total volume or peak volume of stormwater, and/or improve the quality of stormwater leaving a parcel. Examples include green roofs, cisterns and Best Management Practices outlined in the Village Stormwater Credit and Incentive Manual.

Incentive amounts are as follows:

Type	Incentive Amount
Rain Barrel	\$25 per property
Rain Garden	\$300 per property
Permeable Pavers	\$300 per property
Other Projects	Up to \$250 per property

A credit is an ongoing reduction in the amount of stormwater fees assessed to a parcel in recognition of on-site systems, facilities, or other actions taken to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff, in compliance with the Village Stormwater Credit and Incentive Manual (Application forms included).

There are six types of credits available, subject to the maximum levels shown.

Control Activity	Stormwater Fee Credit
Site Run-off Rate Reduction (detention basin)	Up to 20%
Volume Reduction (retention basin, permeable pavement, cisterns, etc.)	Up to 20%
Water Quality (Best Management Practices – BMPs)	Up to 10%
Direct Discharge (Outside and Downstream of the Village’s Stormwater System)	Up to 50%
Education	Up to 100%
Partnership (Provide Land/Facilities to Village to Manage Stormwater)	Up to 100%