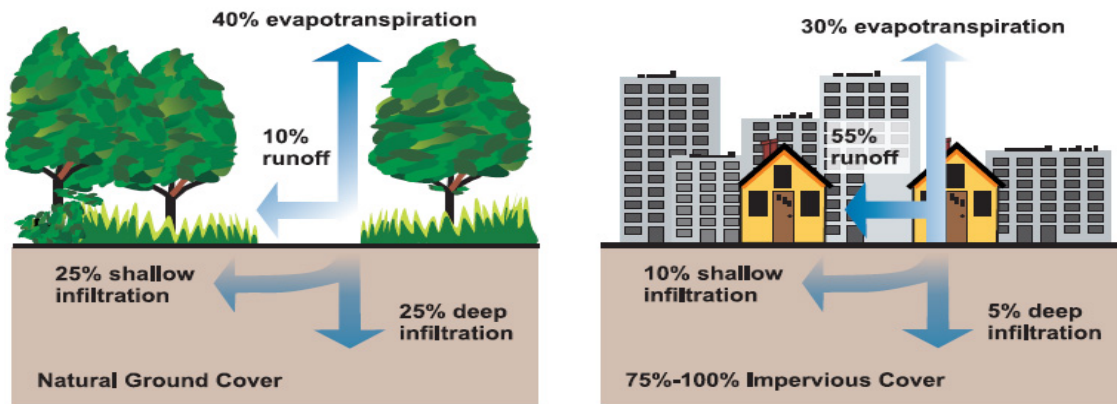


## Protecting our waterways: The inside scoop on Stormwater and the need for equitable funding

Burlington, like other communities, needs to manage Stormwater to protect properties, homes, the environment and water bodies, including Lake Champlain.

### Stormwater: The Facts

- Stormwater is water originating from precipitation, like rain or snowmelt, that does not soak into the ground.
- Stormwater runoff also picks up pollutants, pet waste and debris from streets, parking lots and yards carrying them into nearby waterways. This runoff can be destructive, eroding streams and rivers.
- Impervious surfaces (parking lots, roads, buildings) do not allow stormwater to infiltrate or soak into the ground. Whereas, in rural settings, stormwater penetrates the ground more easily and there is less runoff.
- When communities do not manage stormwater properly, it can cause numerous problems like flooding, pooling, erosion, water pollution, beach closures, even property damage.



### Get the most out of rain: Ideas for creating a rain-friendly yard

- You can redirect your downspouts to rain gardens, grassy areas, rain barrels - places where water can be reused or infiltrate the ground.
- On June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, Burlington Public Works & UVM are hosting a workshop on how to make your very own Rain Barrel. Rain barrels are used to collect and store rain runoff from roofs via rain gutters. You can utilize the collected runoff for gardens and lawns. Please contact Customer Service at 863-4501 for more information and to reserve your space.
- Planting a rain garden is an excellent way to allow stormwater runoff to be absorbed. Grading slopes away from your home and towards your rain garden will allow for the permeable soil and native plants to receive maximum runoff.
- In the summer of 2008, Burlington Public Works and UVM created a rain garden near our facility on Penny Lane. Please consider visiting us to see one of our very own stormwater solutions!
- For more solutions on reducing your stormwater impact, please visit [www.smartwaterways.org](http://www.smartwaterways.org).

## **The History: What is Burlington doing about Stormwater**

- In 2006, Mayor Kiss created a Stormwater Task Force to assess the city's current stormwater regulations, practices, identify deficiencies and recommend solutions.
- In December 2008, the City Council adopted a comprehensive rewrite of city ordinance Chapter 26, Wastewater, Stormwater and Pollution Control.
- The revised ordinance incorporates all of the stormwater regulations into one document including, construction site erosion control, post construction stormwater management, enforcement and illicit discharges and connections.
- In March 2009, the City Council adopted a stormwater user fee that will allow for the necessary sustainable funding of this separate infrastructure.

### **Stormwater: User Fees**

- The Stormwater user fee is effective April 1, 2009 and customers will begin seeing this on their May invoice. This new charge will be on the monthly Water & Wastewater bill.
- The fee links user costs directly to impacts and applies to all properties with impervious surface including tax-exempt properties.
- There is a flat fee for all single family homes, duplexes and triplexes; this is a fixed monthly amount.
- The flat fee was developed due to the moderate variability of impervious surfaces among these property types.
- All other properties will be charged based on their actual impervious surface units (1 ISU=1,000 square feet), as identified by the Planning & Zoning Office.
- Properties **not** subject to the flat fee may be eligible for a credit on their stormwater user fee. See below for the website to download the credit manual or call 863-4501 for a copy.
- The fee structure was adopted at half for the first year of operation. This was done in response to the current economic climate.

Property Type	Monthly Charge April 2009-March 2010	Monthly Charge After April 2010
Single Family	Flat Fee=\$1.50	Flat Fee=\$3.00
Duplex	Flat Fee=\$1.50	Flat Fee=\$3.00
Triplex	Flat Fee=\$1.80	Flat Fee=\$3.60
All others	.59 per ISU	\$1.17 per ISU

Please visit [www.ci.burlington.vt.us/stormwater](http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/stormwater) for more information on the development of the Stormwater program. For questions regarding the new fee, please contact (802)863-4501, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.