

**Village of Rantoul Storm Water**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**  
September 2009

1. When and why was the storm water tax established?

In December 2000, the Village Board authorized establishment of a Storm Water tax on all properties within the corporate limits for the purpose of managing storm water. Until that time, the community faced multiple storm water issues without a clear source of monies to improve areas with little or no storm water systems.
2. I thought this was to be a one time charge?

It was never proposed to be a one time assessment. It will take several years to fund and address the numerous storm water issues in the community, especially in the initial “pay as you go” approach.
3. How are the rates established?

Rates are based on the land use type. Non-residential properties are based on the parcel size and land use. Residential properties have a flat tax for each subdivided lot.
4. What was the original residential rate in 2001?

The residential rate was \$28.97 per lot.
5. What is the current residential rate for 2009?

Residential properties pay a flat amount of \$39.18.
6. Will the tax be the same next year?
  - a. The tax most likely will vary, but the amount up or down will not be determined until the fall budget process begins.
7. What is the budget for Storm Water Division?

Total revenue in 2001 was \$400,000. Total revenue in 2009 is \$525,000.
8. How are storm water funds allocated?
  - a. Based on Total Revenues of \$525,000, major Expenses are as follows:
    - i. Debt Service - \$194,000
    - ii. Maintenance and repair of Storm System - \$202,500
    - iii. Miscellaneous - \$3,500
    - iv. Remaining project funds of \$125,000
9. How many storm water projects have been identified and how many remain?

In 1999, the Village Board authorized a study of the storm water system to identify what improvements were required. Nearly 20 major projects at a cost exceeding \$10 million were initially identified.

Doing a quick calculation, it will take more than 20 years at the current storm water revenue of \$500,000 per year to approach having sufficient funds to address these projects.
10. I don't see work being done along my street, what am I receiving for my storm tax payment?

The storm water funds are to benefit and improve the system throughout the entire community and this has to be done a step at a time.

Storm funds spent in one area of the Village may allow a different type of funding to be used for improvements in another neighborhood.

In addition to the construction projects completed or identified, the storm water fund pays for inspection, maintenance and repair of the existing storm water system. This storm water system is comprised of more than 100 miles of storm lines, five (5) storm water pump stations, and numerous inlets.

It also pays for the cleaning of the storm lines when sediment and debris collects, leaf collection to avoid ponding and back-ups.

The completed projects have worked very well and provided dramatic improvements in those areas during heavy rainfalls. This type of success has raised the expectations of the community for managing storm water and has the community anxious to move forward with additional projects, but funds remain limited.

11. How are projects identified?

History and topography are good indicators in identifying problem areas.

Through computer modeling of the existing storm system and surrounding area, options in managing and channeling storm water can be determined.

Storm water tends to seek its natural path of flow, and engineers attempt to incorporate those natural routes into the project design.

Projects that provide benefit over the largest area received priority. Also, projects that were the initial phase in a multi-phased project were needed to be performed first. The development of the Maplewood Detention pond is an excellent example.

12. What projects have been completed thus far?

Maplewood Retention Pond - \$621,000

Sangamon / Wabash Avenue - \$1,923,000

Praireview / Shady Lawn - \$346,000

Eater Drive Upgrade - \$274,000

Lon Drive / Gates Dr - \$123,000

N. Maplewood Dr / Clark St - \$299,000

13. What are some of the future projects?

Murray Road - \$175,000

Carolina / Gleason outfall - \$1,500,000

Indian Hills' pond and outfall - \$565,200

Broadmeadow subdivision - \$350,000

South Murray Road - \$600,000

Chandler Road drainage - \$230,000 - \$510,000 - plus

South Pointe improvements - \$250,000

Century Avenue improvements - \$2,250,000

Multiple areas to be evaluated and projects defined.

14. What is the difference between the storm system and the sanitary system?

The village operates two distinct systems, one that transports the domestic and industrial waste water discharge to the Waste Water Treatment Plant for processing and treatment.

The second collection and transport system is the storm water system that channels runoff from precipitation through the community to the designated discharge points in the surrounding drainage district ditches.

Portions of both systems are more than 70 years old and were not initially designed to serve a community of this size.

15. During heavy rains, where does the water go?

Through a series of ditches, underground pipe and ponds, storm water flows through the village into two distinct directions to the drainage ditches that are around the perimeter of the village.

The village requires that non-residential customers detain rainwater on their site to discharge a one hundred (100) year event at a typical two (2) year storm discharge at the predevelopment rate.

Heavy rains see infiltration and inflow (I&I) into the sanitary system filling those lines and stressing the system.

It is nearly impossible and very expensive to attempt to completely seal a gravity flow system due to the joints and numerous cracked or abandoned service lines.

A common concern is that down spouts and sump pumps should never be connected to discharge into the sanitary system.

16. What can residents do to help the storm systems operations?

Do not rake leaves and grass into the street gutter as this tends to block the flow of water into the inlets or in the lines themselves.

Leaf collection is performed by the Village during the fall.

The local sanitary hauler will accept bagged leaves and grass throughout the year, please call them for details and pricing.

Try not to mow your grass clippings into the street.

Do not litter! It is amazing how much trash and debris are washed into the storm lines and create blockages.

As a reminder, do not connect your down spouts or sump pumps into the sanitary system. They belong in the storm system.

17. What misconceptions seem to exist?

The village has endless financial resources.

That the storm tax was a one-time assessment. In fact, it is a long-term commitment to the community to improve the management of storm water for the years to come.

18. Where can I learn more about Village of Rantoul's Storm water?

a. [www.myrantoul.com](http://www.myrantoul.com) Village Code & Ordinances Chapter 30, Article VII

b. [www.myrantoul.com/services/publicworks/stormdrainage/index.html](http://www.myrantoul.com/services/publicworks/stormdrainage/index.html)