

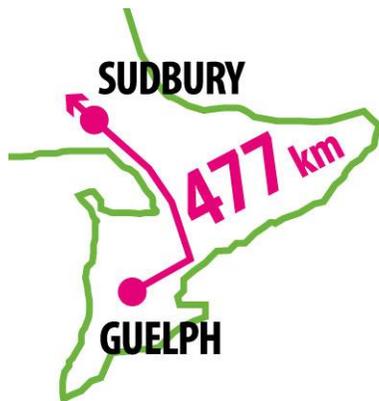
STORMWATER: QUICK FACTS

About stormwater

- Stormwater refers to the rain, melted snow, and water that runs off hard surfaces such as roofs, driveways and roads, rather than soaking into the ground. Stormwater flows into rivers and waterways or is channelled into storm sewers and ponds.
- We manage stormwater to control flooding and reduce pollution in our local rivers.
- The 2012 [Stormwater Management Master Plan](#) recommends the City needs more than \$61 million for upgrades and repairs to our stormwater system.

Did you know?

- Guelph's stormwater system includes 477 km of sewer pipes, 11,900 catch basins/drains, and 120 stormwater management facilities such as ponds, and 143 oil-grit separators.
- Guelph's first stormwater pond was built near Eramosa and Wellington roads in 1970.
- Guelph's 477 km of storm sewer pipes would reach past Sudbury.



- A number of municipalities have implemented a stormwater fee including, Kitchener, Waterloo and Mississauga.

What does stormwater management cost?

- We need more than \$6 million to manage our stormwater system each year. This includes operations, upgrades and maintenance.
- Historically, only about \$2 million has been budgeted through property taxes each year.
- That leaves a \$4 million annual funding gap for a service that helps protect our community from flooding and pollution.
- Just like a leaky roof costs more to fix the longer it's ignored, critical infrastructure repairs also cost more the longer they are left unfixed; ignoring these problems makes everyone more vulnerable to water-related damage.
- Guelph's stormwater service fee, which starts in January 2017, will provide dedicated funding for stormwater services.

Note: These dollar amounts appear in the 2012 and 2015 [Sustainable Infrastructure Report and Infrastructure Scorecard](#), and will change over time

Learn more

- Environmental Commissioner of Ontario: [Urban Stormwater Fees: How to pay for what we need](#)
- Smart Prosperity Institute: [New Solutions for Sustainable Stormwater Management in Canada](#)
- RBC Blue Water Project: [2014 Canadian Water Attitudes Study](#)
- Insurance Bureau of Canada: [Preparing for Water Related Damage](#)
- Grand River Conservation Authority: [Water & Floods](#)