



# Stormwater Utility

## Excellence

Our Stormwater Utility is working hard behind the scenes to protect Missoula’s water quality and comply with state and federal water quality regulations that result in cleaner rivers and streams and cleaner water that recharges our aquifer—the source of our drinking water. Since the Stormwater Utility was established in 2016, our staff has made great strides in complying with our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit.

## Investing in the Future

Our current stormwater rates will not support the types of investments Missoula’s stormwater system needs to improve and maintain the current infrastructure or allow for future projects.

The proposed rate increases will provide the funding to accomplish the following:

- Construct important capital projects, such as the Caras Park and South Hills Storm Drainage projects.
- Maintain existing stormwater infrastructure, such as:
  - The City’s 7,500 dry well sumps.
  - The 51 City-owned stormwater outfalls that discharge runoff to our local rivers and streams.
- Install infrastructure to remove stormwater pollutants before they are discharged into local waterbodies.
- Maintain the four Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-accredited levee systems that protect property from flooding and reduce flood insurance rates.



Stormwater Utility staff conduct water quality sampling at six sites twice a year during rainstorms.



Left: The Stormwater Utility recently began a project in Caras Park to install an infiltration gallery that will collect the first one-half inch of stormwater runoff from the downtown area to prevent dissolved pollutants from entering the Clark Fork River.

- Provide training to contractors to help them comply with stormwater permit standards on construction sites.
- Educate the community on the importance of eliminating pollution from urban stormwater runoff.

## 2021 Stormwater Rates in Other Montana Cities and Towns

Missoula’s stormwater rates are in line with other Montana cities.

