Creating Incentives to Reduce Stormwater Pollution and Flooding

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CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Every Providence resident should feel safe knowing that a big storm will not flood their street or damage their home. That is why the City is planning now to repair and upgrade its aging pipes and drains so they can handle today's storms and last for years to come. The City is also adding green features like rain gardens, trees, and ponds to soak up rainwater and reduce flooding.

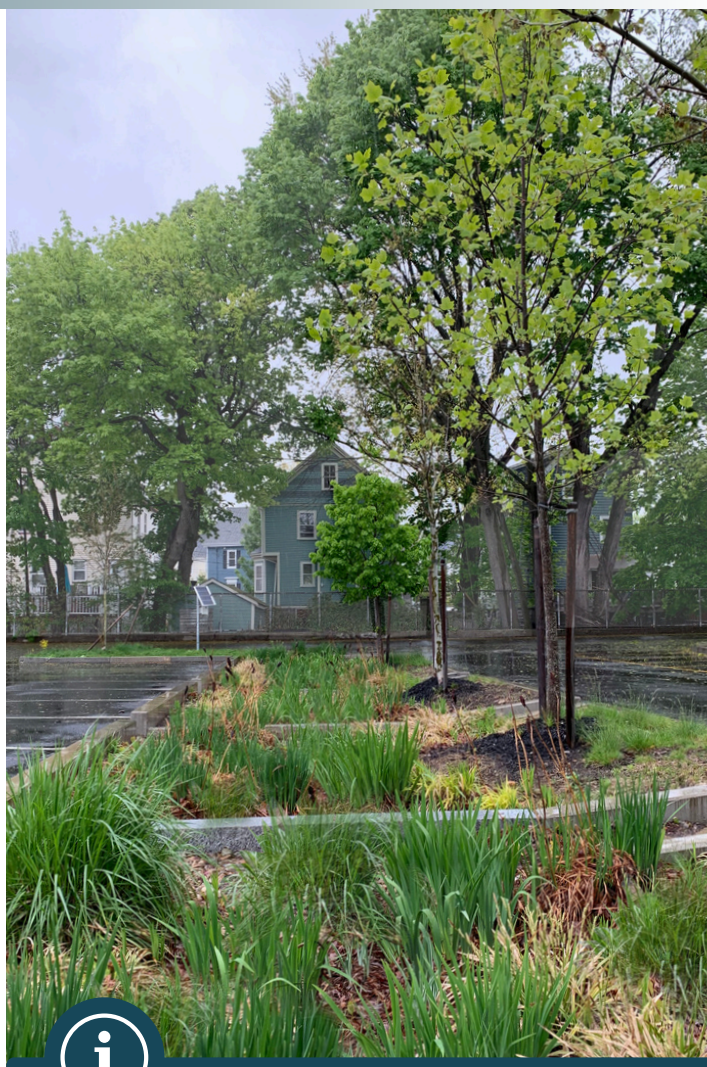
To pay for these repairs and green infrastructure, the City is proposing a stormwater fee. This fee will give the City a steady source of funding for stormwater maintenance and projects. Each property owner will pay based on how much stormwater runs off their property. Even properties that are exempt from property taxes will pay their fair share. That way, everyone who uses and benefits from the system helps pay to keep it working.

> Just as you can lower your water or electric bill by using less, you will also be able to lower your stormwater fee by reducing the amount of rainwater runoff your property produces. You would earn credits by making changes on your property that reduce flooding and treat runoff.

Actions Eligible for Credits

With a credit program, property owners could lower their stormwater fees by earning credits for managing rainwater on their property to prevent it from entering the storm system. The City wants your feedback on which changes will qualify for credits. In general, credits will be given for proven effective strategies that improve water quality and help reduce the amount of runoff that can cause flooding.

The City will publish a credit manual that lists the changes property owners can make. Examples include removing hard surfaces like pavement, building detention basins, creating rain gardens that capture rain where it falls, or adding other stormwater storage or filtering systems on your property. If you already have features on your property that effectively treat or manage stormwater, you may also qualify for a credit.



How It Will Work

In most cities with credit programs, property owners fill out a form that describes what they have done to reduce their runoff, along with details and photos. Credits usually last one or two years. After that, you would need to renew by submitting updated paperwork. The City will need proof that the system was installed and kept up properly. The City is also looking into offering grants to help property owners make changes that better manage stormwater.

We need to hear from you

As the City builds the credit program, we want to hear from you. You can answer these questions here and return this survey to City staff or click the link (bit.ly/4qxK2Ov) or scan the QR Code to answer online. Your input will help shape the program.

Incentives for Residential Property Owners: Would a stormwater credit encourage you to make a change on your property, such as adding a rain garden or removing pavement?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ Not Applicable

Comments:_____

Incentives for Commercial or Industrial Property Owners: If you are a commercial or industrial property owner, would a stormwater credit encourage you to make a change on your property, such as adding a rain garden or removing pavement?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ Not Applicable

Comments:_____

Types of Credits: Which types of activities should be considered for credit?

- ☐ Detention basins
- ☐ Rain gardens
- ☐ Removing pavement or other hard surfaces
- ☐ Adding other filtration structures

Other:_____

Amount of Credit: The City wants to reward property owners who capture the rain where it falls, while managing the need for funding to manage above ground and underground systems citywide. What is a fair maximum credit?

- ☐ 10% of the total bill
- ☐ 20% of the total bill
- ☐ 30% of the total bill

Other:_____

Opportunities for Residential Projects: Would you want the City to fund and contract with a partner who could provide expert help for households who want to reduce their stormwater run-off and manage the projects?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Comments:_____

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