
Surface Water Concerns

Call the Surface Water Hotline (360) 336-6204 for drainage issues, pollution prevention and neighborhood flooding.

This hotline takes calls, dispatches crews to investigate concerns, provides technical assistance and/or corrects the problems.



Rusted out Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) in need of lining or replacement



Rusted out CMP after completion of lining



Kulshan Creek City of Mount Vernon/BNSF Bridge Installation Project Prior to Construction



Kulshan Creek City of Mount Vernon/Completed BNSF Bridge Installation Project

Questions About Your Bill?

910 Cleveland Avenue
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360)336-6218
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday



Surface Water Utility Information

(Compliance with Federal Clean Water Act)

RATE INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2018

910 Cleveland Avenue
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: (360) 336-6218
mvutilities@mountvernonwa.gov

Surface Water Charge

The Federal Clean Water Act was created in 1972 and established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal storm water permit program that authorized the EPA and Washington State government to perform a permitting program which mandates cities to manage and control polluted storm water runoff so that it does not pollute downstream waters.

The Surface Water Utility charge is a standard amount for residential customers based on the average surface area of impervious cover on residential properties and the average square footage throughout the city.

The standard area of impervious has been updated to 3200 square feet based on calculations completed in 2017.

Why the Change in Rates?

New rates are required so the City of Mount Vernon can pay for all costs associated with operating a safe, reliable and affordable surface water system remaining in compliance with Federal and State law. Some key costs associated with the rate increase include:

- Investing in aging infrastructure; including inspections and lining of thousands of feet of storm water pipes per year.
- Investing in water quality and quantity facilities that make our storm water clean and protect the Skagit River and Puget Sound.
- Increasing required state and federal environmental regulations.
- Rising costs for general goods and services.

Surface Water Charge Increase

The City of Mount Vernon Surface Water Utility has not raised rates since 1999.

When you receive the utility bill for January 2018 services it will reflect new surface water utility rates for storm water services.

Rate Increase Overview

	Current	Rate	New
<u>Date</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1/1/2018	\$6.05	\$3.95	\$10.00
1/1/2019	\$10.00	\$1.00	\$11.00
1/1/2020	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$12.00

Note: Rates will be adjusted annually using the Consumer Price Index beginning January 2021.



How are the Rates Determined?

The rate is based on the area of impervious surface on a parcel. Single family residents pay a flat rate, while commercial and multi-family parcels are assessed a rate calculated using an Equivalent Service Unit (ESU).

An ESU is the average square feet of impervious surface on a single family zoned parcel in the city. In Mount Vernon, the average square feet of impervious surface is 3,200 square feet. The monthly rate is determined for multi-family and commercial parcels by assessing the square footage of impervious surface on the parcel, and then dividing by 1 ESU (3,200 square feet), and multiplying by the monthly rate.

How are the Fees Calculated?

Commercial and Multi-Family:

Total Parcel Size: **139,744 ft²**

Total Impervious Surface: **24,153 ft²**

ESU: $24,153/3,200 = 7.5$ ESU

Rate: $7.5 \times \$10.00 =$ **\$75.00/month**

Single Family:

All single family zoned homes are charged at a flat rate of **\$10.00/month**.

Vacant Unimproved Land:

No charge