



# Stormwater Utility and Rainwater Rewards Update



## PURPOSE

1. Provide Council with an update on the Stormwater Utility and the Rainwater Rewards Credit and Rebate program;
2. Seek Council Direction on Rainwater Rewards Rebate program;
3. Seek Council direction on maintaining the Street Cleaning Factor of the stormwater utility fee;
4. Seek Council direction on an amendment to the Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Utilities Bylaw No. 14-071, Section 30 Multiple Occupancy (*Strata Property Act*) Premises.



## BACKGROUND

### **Stormwater Utility Timeline**

Adoption in 2014, Bills sent in 2016 and 2017.

### **Rationale behind the Stormwater Utility**

Offers transparency, incentives, control, consistency and best practice.

### **Fee Components**

Charges based on property attributes: impervious area, street frontage length, property type and codes of practice

### **Rainwater Rewards Program**

Consists of Credits (2-50%), and a pilot Rebate program offering one time payments for sustainable rainwater management

### **Next Steps**

Rainwater targets for new developments, design guidelines for City projects



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## ISSUES SUMMARY

**Inquiries (feedback):** Questions and clarification related to billing and the program

**Rainwater Rewards Outlook:** Questions related to the duration of the Rainwater Rewards program

**Street Cleaning Fee:** Questions / concerns regarding the costs and equity of the street cleaning fee

**Billing:** Questions related to billing for the stormwater utility, to be either on its own, or a combined bill. This is currently under review.

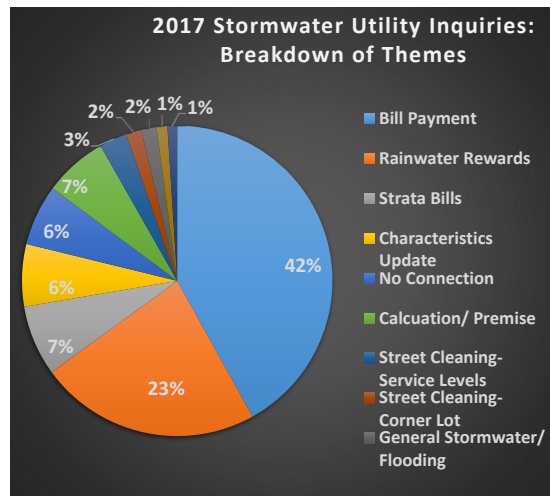


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## ISSUES/ANALYSIS

### Stormwater Utility Community Feedback

- ~1400 inquiries received in 2016
- ~650 inquiries in 2017
- Ratepayers show an increase in understanding of the utility
- Staff continue the ongoing review for improvements and efficiencies



2017 STORMWATER INQUIRY THEMES



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## ISSUES/ANALYSIS

### Rainwater Rewards Program

- Rebate pilot ended Dec 2017, is currently under review
- Approximately 265 inquiries received following the 2017 billing
- 106 applications received since the program inception
- Approximately \$12,000 in rebates awarded
- Program extension is recommended for in-progress and time-sensitive applications
- A full analysis of program participation will be presented to Council in June 2018 with associated recommendations



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## ISSUES/ANALYSIS

### Street Cleaning Fee

Two options for consideration:

#### Frontage Length Calculation (existing formula):

- Rate was amended in 2015
- Charge is proportional to frontage length, follows the principles of the stormwater utility to charge properties in a fair and equitable manner

#### Common Residential Parcel Fee:

- Fee applies to all low density residential properties.
- May address the perceived inequities for properties on corner lots
- Increases street cleaning fees for the majority of low density residential properties

	Average Impact to Bills	Number of Properties Impacted	Range of impacts
Increase	\$ 9.85	8885	\$0.01-\$35
Decrease	\$ (32.73)	2670	(\$0.09)-(\$205)

Impact of Parcel Fee for Street Cleaning of \$35.16, based on 2018 rates



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## ISSUES/ANALYSIS

### Billing Administration

- Equally split bills are offered for low density strata properties with equal unit entitlements
- Amendment to Section 30 of the *Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Utilities Bylaw* is needed to reflect this practice
- Billing processes and alternatives are currently under review for improvements



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### That Council directs staff to:

1. Extend the Rainwater Rewards rebate pilot program and report back with a review and recommendations in June 2018.
2. Amend the Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Utilities Bylaw No. 14-071, *Section 30 Multiple Occupancy (Strata Property Act) Premises* to reflect the practices for imposing fees and charges with respect to strata lot premises.

