

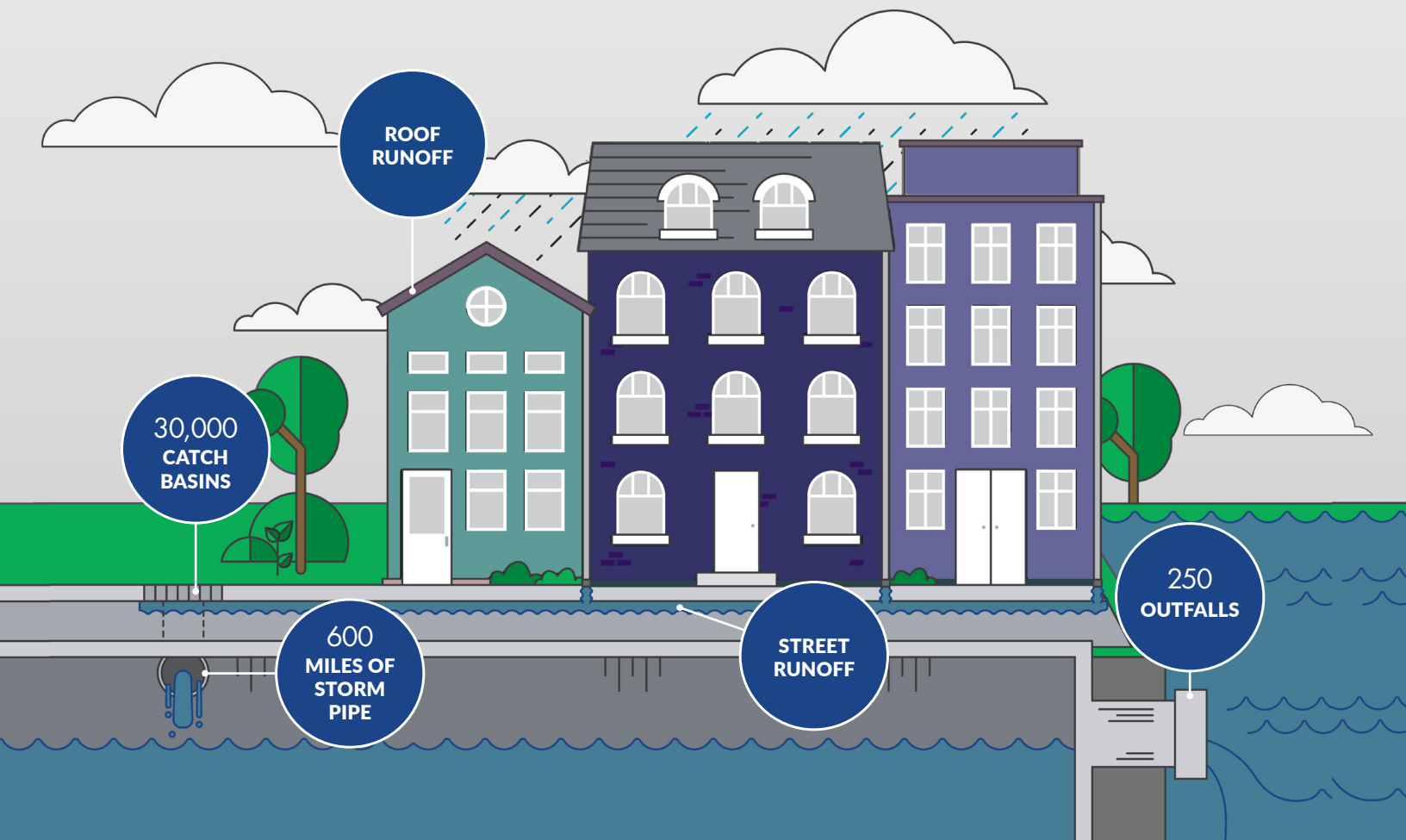
Currents


We're Changing the Way We Charge for Stormwater

What is stormwater, and how does it become a source of pollution?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or snowmelt that does not soak into the ground. As stormwater flows over hard (impervious) surfaces, it collects trash, sediment, and pollutants like motor oil and fertilizer. Impervious surfaces like roofs, patios, roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks prevent water from absorbing into the ground. Stormwater is not treated, so these surfaces allow more pollutants to enter local waterways. The image below shows a Boston cityscape and the features of our stormwater system.

Next year, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission will launch an expanded stormwater program that meets an elevated need for investment in stormwater infrastructure. The program will include the creation of a proposed separate stormwater charge and credits/grants for customers who work to reduce stormwater runoff from their property.



 Monthly Charges	
Water	\$
Sewer	\$
Stormwater	\$

A New Way to Charge for Stormwater Service

Currently, BWSC customers pay for stormwater service through their sewer service charge. Starting in 2024 (date to be determined), charges for stormwater will be separated from sewer charges and based on a property's impervious surface area. Charging for stormwater service based on the amount of impervious area is something cities throughout New England and across the country are doing with more frequency because it is the fairest method to recover stormwater costs.

How Your Bill Will Change

The proposed stormwater charge will be based on the amount of impervious surface on a property, and BWSC expects that a majority of residential customers will see no increase in their overall bill because the new charge will accompany a reduction in the sewer rate. The elderly and disability discounts (30% on water and sewer charges) that BWSC provides will automatically apply to the stormwater charge for those customers that currently receive it. The amount of the stormwater charge is still being determined. Customers can access more information, including a bill estimator, at www.bwsc.org/stormwater

Credits and Grants Are Coming

We're developing programs to recognize property owners for taking actions on their property. Changes such as adding green infrastructure or retaining stormwater help to minimize the demand on the stormwater system.

Coming soon on our website details on the program.



What can residents do to help prevent stormwater runoff from polluting our waterways?

- **Don't Dump** hazardous materials such as oil, paint and cleaning products into a street or catch basin
- **Scoop the Poop** pet waste also contaminates our waterways
- **Install Green Infrastructure** where you can. Have features on the property that allow rain or other precipitation to soak into the ground.

Schedule

Now-December 2023

Conduct public outreach to explain how the new charge and credit/grant programs will work

December 2023

Public Hearing

Early 2024

Begin Stormwater Charge and open applications for Credit and Grant Programs

For More Information

Visit Our Website www.bwsc.org/stormwater

Contact Customer Services

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