

## City Storm Water Utility Credit Policy

The purpose of the Storm Water Utility Credit Policy is to encourage actions by residential property owners within the city that:

- Reduce storm water flows and volumes;
- Reduce storm water pollution and;
- Reduce the utility's costs in providing proper management of storm water runoff.

Residential properties may be eligible for a credit to their storm water utility fee under two circumstances:

- Installation and maintenance of a Best Management Practice and/or
- Impervious area that is riparian to a water body.

For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works at 920-236-5065



## About the Oshkosh Sustainability Advisory Board

The Oshkosh Sustainability Advisory Board was established in 2009 and is given the mission to advise the City Manager and Common Council on sustainability issues affecting municipal operations and the community at large.

Sustainability is the framework to think about and address systems holistically, rather than as component pieces or departments. For the City of Oshkosh, sustainability is implemented through the City's Strategic Plan and is guided by the City's Sustainability Plan.

## City of Oshkosh

### Impervious Surfaces and Water Quality

### City of Oshkosh Sustainability Advisory Board

215 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901  
[www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/SustainableOshkosh](http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/SustainableOshkosh)



# What is an impervious surface?

An impervious surface is any surface that water cannot penetrate, meaning that it covers that ground and does not allow water to filter through the soil. Examples of impervious surfaces that you see every day include sidewalks, roads, rooftops, and parking lots.



*It is estimated that pavement covers 22% of Wisconsin's urban areas.*

[http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/jrnl/2012/nrs\\_2012\\_nowak\\_\\_002.pdf](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/jrnl/2012/nrs_2012_nowak__002.pdf)

## What's wrong with impervious surfaces?

Water will still find a place to go, right? Yes; however, dense areas of impervious surfaces means water cannot penetrate the ground, thereby entering directly into our waterways -- often known as storm water runoff. This runoff means that water will carry a number of materials into our lakes and rivers since it is not first filtered through the soil.

Storm water runoff can significantly reduce the quality of our water, and can also increase the chances of flooding.

## What can you do to help?

- Direct storm water from paved areas into vegetative strips or gravel trenches.
- Install detention basins or plant a rain garden.
- Redirect water from downspouts to green areas rather than paved areas or into a rain barrel.
- Plant native plants, which are better at absorbing and retaining water.
- Consider alternative surfaces such as permeable pavement/cement, pavers, and wood decking, which all allow water to penetrate into the soil.



## What are some benefits to pervious surfaces?

- Decrease the amount of pollutants entering our waterways.
- Reduce flooding.
- Reduce erosion.
- Improve the quality of waterways.
- Reduce the volume of water that enters the storm drain system, which decreases financial burden needed to maintain the systems.