

Market street bioretention project

# Salisbury stormwater utility

Salisbury has established a “stormwater utility” program to reduce polluted runoff, to improve water quality and meet its federal clean water regulations.

In 2014, the City of Salisbury approved a “stormwater utility” in order to maintain the city’s storm drain system and create on-the-ground projects to reduce polluted runoff. A feasibility study conducted by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center recommended this proven approach to help Salisbury clean up our river, creeks and ponds and meet our federal requirements to reduce pollution. More than 1,400 communities across the country have similar programs, which assess a modest fee based on hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways and parking lots. Salisbury’s stormwater utility will help us properly maintain our storm drain system, reduce trash and debris, and keep our city healthy, prosperous and beautiful.

## HOW DOES IT WORK

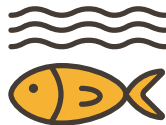
For residential properties, the annual fee is \$20 per single family household and for non-residential properties (commercial, industrial and institutional) the annual fee is based on the actual amount of hardened surfaces on each property. The fee appears on property tax bills, and goes into a dedicated fund within city government.

## Benefits of the stormwater utility:



### A dedicated fund

Stormwater utility revenue stays within a dedicated fund and can only be spent on stormwater programs – this money stays in Salisbury and gets spent on Salisbury projects.



### Improved water quality

Stormwater projects will keep polluted runoff from entering our river, creeks and ponds and help keep local fish and other seafood safe to eat.



### Reduced flooding

Improving storm drains and managing runoff will reduce flooding and protect private property and public facilities from floodwater damage.



### Connection to bay cleanup

Communities like Salisbury across the Chesapeake Bay watershed are putting policies in place to reduce pollution – and they are working.