

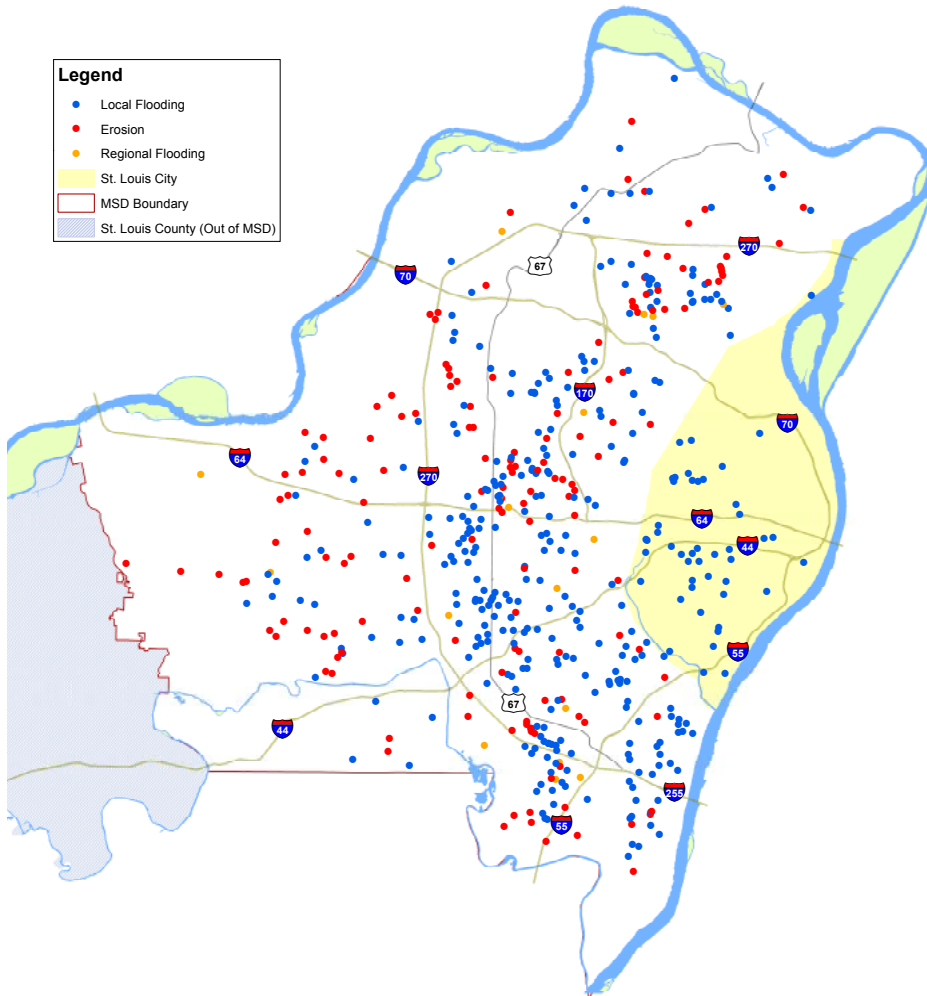
WHAT IS A STORMWATER CAPITAL RATE?

Often, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) customers ask for our help with flooding and erosion because they have nowhere else to turn. While MSD is not a flood plain manager, nor does it own creeks or streams, it is best positioned to offer comprehensive stormwater services to our community. The proposed Stormwater Capital Rate would be an ongoing funding source for addressing stormwater capital improvements. The proposed rate is an impervious surface rate that would be paid by each customer based upon the total surface-area of their property that cannot absorb water. This approach is based on the direct impact that stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces has on flooding and erosion.

UNFUNDED STORMWATER ISSUES

identified but unfunded - 500 total cost - \$562M

As rainfall becomes more intense, we can no longer try to engineer around Mother Nature. Though MSD cannot prevent localized flooding and erosion, it could address projects that would lessen the possibility of future localized flooding and erosion. Without an ongoing funding source, MSD cannot currently address flooding and erosion throughout the region, such as the issues identified in this map.



LOCALIZED FLOODING

KEY ISSUES

Ex., backyard or localized flooding that may affect a few contiguous properties.



POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- Stormwater drainage systems
- Property buyouts
- Rainscaping

EROSION

KEY ISSUES

Ex., Erosion of creek or stream banks along private property lines



POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- Natural creek bank stabilization
- Property buyouts

REGIONAL FLOODING

KEY ISSUES

Ex., large-scale flooding of waterways, impacting streets, properties, and structures



POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- *Only* potential solution is large-scale property buyouts

WHO WOULD BE IMPACTED

If approved, all public and private property within the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's (MSD) service area, including properties owned by governmental or nonprofit entities and those not receiving MSD services, would be subject to the Stormwater Capital Rate. Levee districts currently in contractual agreements with MSD would be exempt, as these districts already provide stormwater services for their residents. All creeks and streams would remain privately owned, and local municipalities would retain floodplain management responsibilities. The Stormwater Capital Improvement Program is not a solution for large-scale flood events that the St. Louis area has experienced from major rivers, such as the recent flooding of the Meramec River in 2015 and 2017.

A HELPFUL STORMWATER HISTORY

BEFORE 2008 | TAXES & FEES

Stormwater services were funded by taxes and a flat fee. The amount of taxes and the resulting services were location-based, which meant not all customers paid the same rates or received the same level of service.

2008 | IMPERVIOUS

MSD replaced its old fee and tax structure with an impervious charge, calculating fees by the amount of land covered by features that cannot absorb rainwater.

2010 | REPEALED

The impervious charge was repealed after a legal challenge. The Missouri Supreme Court upheld the challenge in 2013.

2015 | FIX THE SYSTEM

MSD began working to unify its taxing mechanisms. Existing taxes could not be collected in one taxing district and spent in another, leaving large portions of St. Louis County without adequate stormwater services.

2016 | PROPOSITION S

Voters approved Prop S, enabling MSD to provide all customers with the same level of stormwater service at the same rate for the first time.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

In September 2018, the Rate Commission provided its recommendation to MSD's Board of Trustees, which accepted the recommendation at that time. Prior to providing its recommendation, the commission hosted a series of public hearings to obtain public feedback about the Stormwater Capital Rate and to review the funding proposal. To assist with its review, the commission had rate experts, legal counsel, and other technical experts working at its direction. In November 2018, the trustees approved an ordinance allowing St. Louis City and St. Louis County voters to consider the Stormwater Capital Rate the following April. If voters approve the Stormwater Capital Rate by a simple majority (51 percent), MSD would be able to fund projects that address erosion and local/regional flooding.



\$27

The average a homeowner would pay each year for the impervious surfaces on their property with the Stormwater Capital Rate. That's just \$2.25 per month.



500

The approximate number of currently-known flooding and erosion issues in the MSD service area. These are private property issues caused by stormwater runoff. Most are beyond the technical and financial capabilities of homeowners.



100%

All impervious surfaces cause stormwater runoff, meaning they do not absorb water. Concrete, blacktop, and the footprint of a house are examples of impervious surfaces, and each one contributes to runoff that can lead to flooding and erosion.



\$30,000,000

The amount the Stormwater Capital Rate would generate each year to fund MSD's Stormwater Capital Improvement Program. These funds would allow MSD to provide comprehensive stormwater services that would include: Property buyouts, rainscaping, natural creek bank stabilization, and stormwater drainage systems installation.

1



TWO-STEP APPROACH

2016 | **PROP S** & 2018 | **CAPITAL RATE**

In 2016, voters approved MSD's Proposition S, equalizing operations and maintenance services for the public stormwater sewer system. This allowed MSD to correct stormwater sewer problems throughout its service area. However, flooding and erosion issues caused by stormwater runoff are private property issues that remain unfunded and unaddressed.

The Stormwater Capital Rate was proposed to MSD's independent Rate Commission on February 26, 2018. The impervious surface charge would fund MSD's Stormwater Capital Improvement Program, which would enable MSD to address localized flooding and erosion issues that many property owners are unable to resolve on their own.

2

