

Public Information Session Stormwater Expansion

**Please drop in if you
have any questions.**

**STRAIGHT from
the SOURCE**



**STRAIGHT from
the SOURCE**



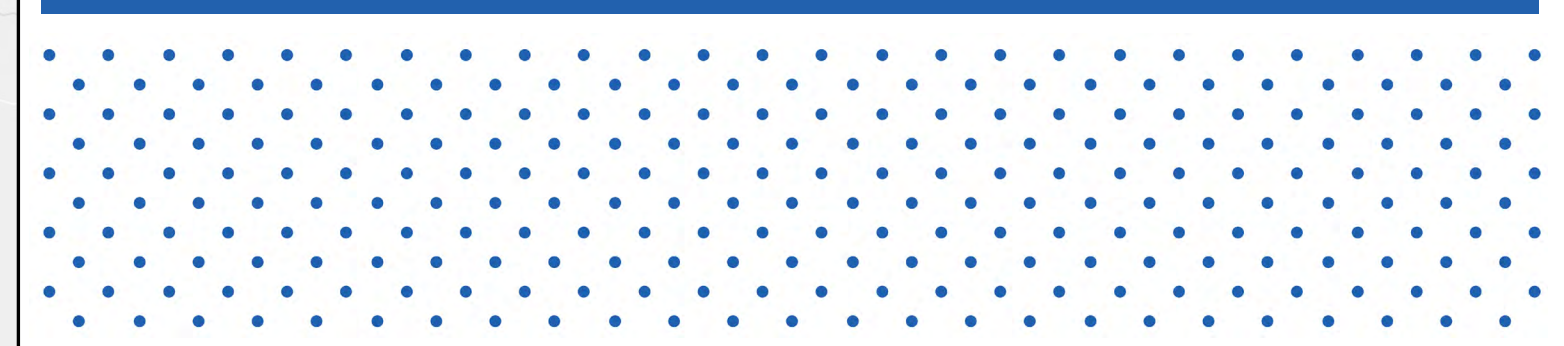
Stormwater Management

Welcome to Halifax Water's Public Information Session



NEW STORMWATER SERVICE AREA

OTTER LAKE/HUBLEY HEAD OF ST. MARGARET'S BAY



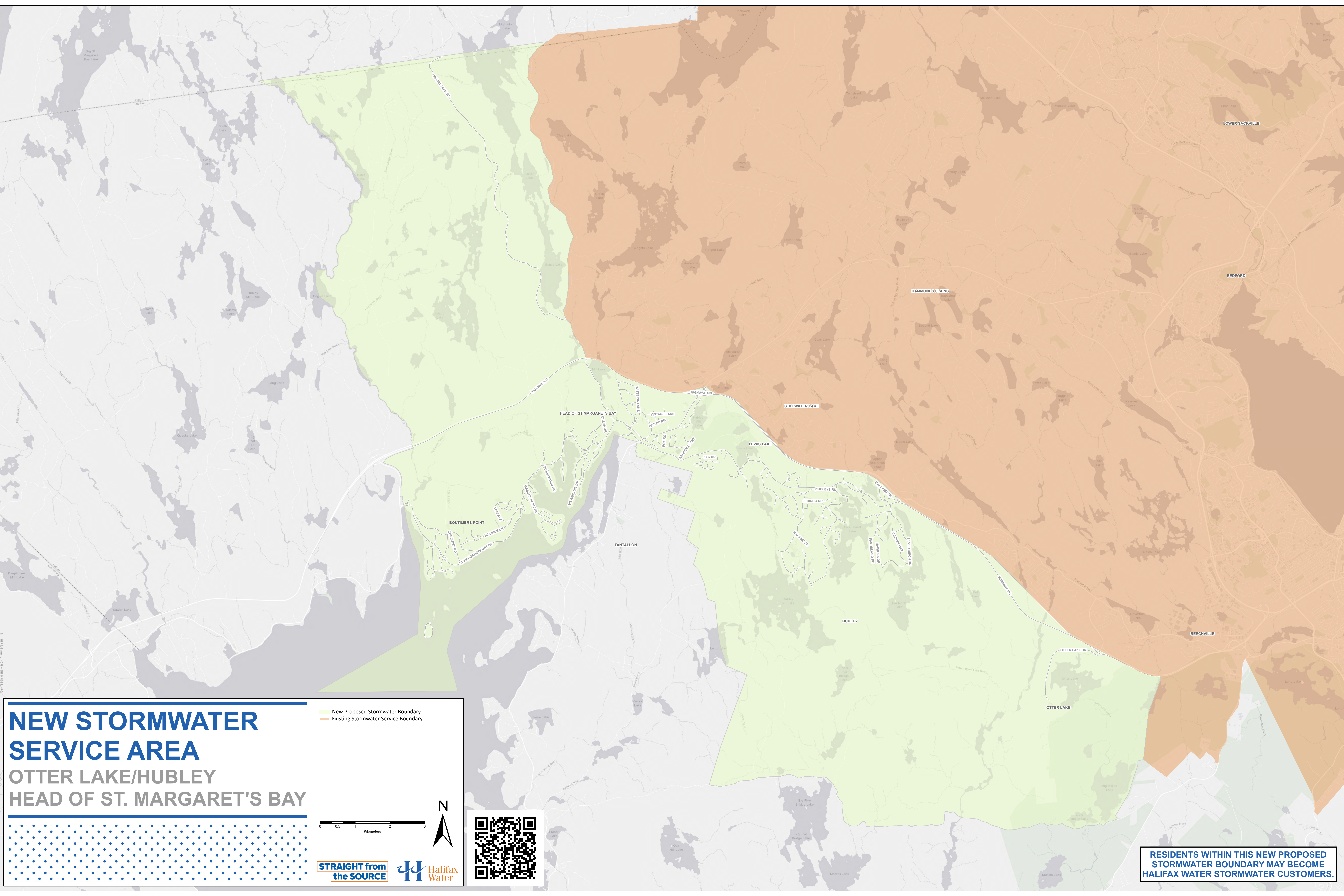
New Proposed Stormwater Boundary
Existing Stormwater Service Boundary

0 0.5 1 2 3
Kilometers

STRAIGHT from the SOURCE



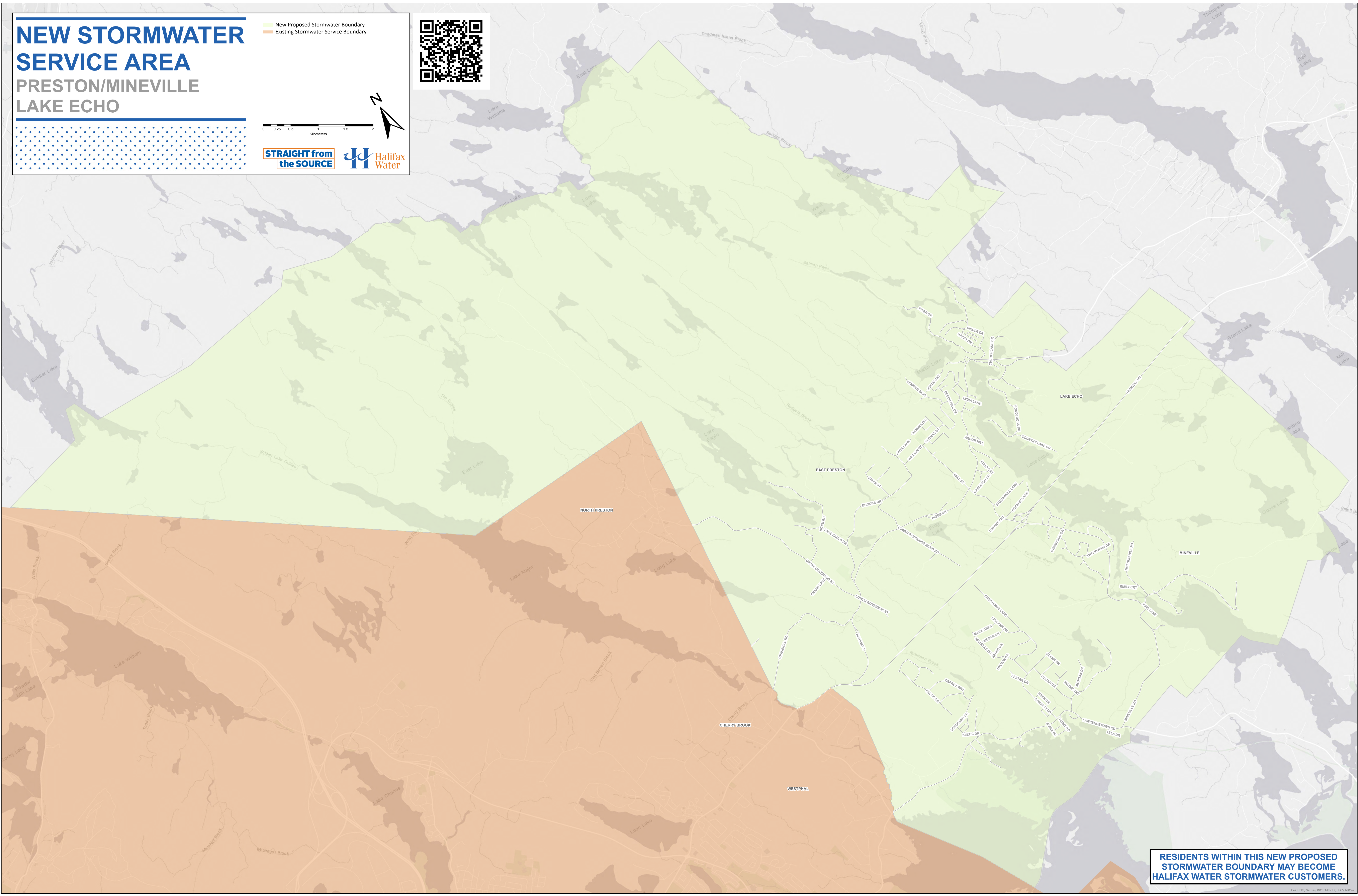
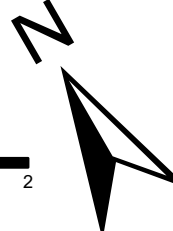
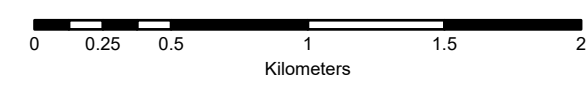
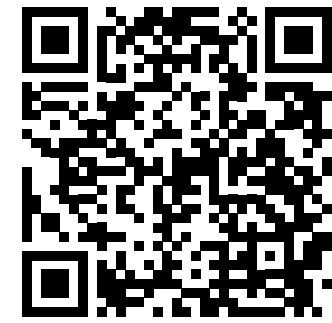
RESIDENTS WITHIN THIS NEW PROPOSED STORMWATER BOUNDARY MAY BECOME HALIFAX WATER STORMWATER CUSTOMERS.



NEW STORMWATER SERVICE AREA

PRESTON/MINEVILLE LAKE ECHO

New Proposed Stormwater Boundary
Existing Stormwater Service Boundary



RESIDENTS WITHIN THIS NEW PROPOSED STORMWATER BOUNDARY MAY BECOME HALIFAX WATER STORMWATER CUSTOMERS.

ENV. HERE, GAMES, INCORPORATED P. 1/2023, 1/2023

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is precipitation of all kinds, and includes water from rain, melting snow and ice, groundwater discharge and surface water.

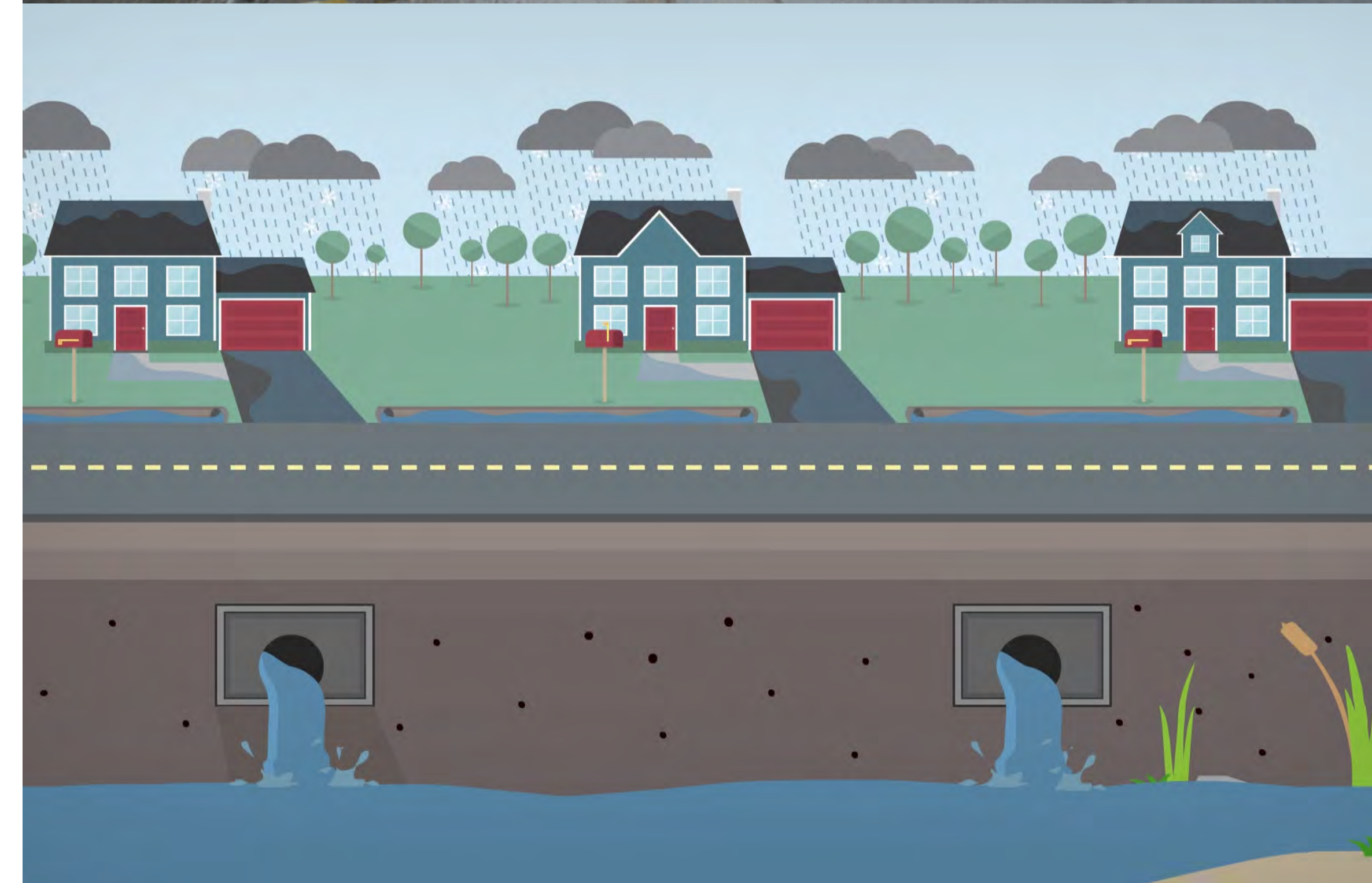
Stormwater runs off from impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots, driveways, and other hard surfaces.



What is stormwater management?

Stormwater management involves operating, maintaining and upgrading the systems that control and reduce the impacts of rainwater or melted snow runoff into streets, lawns/ yards and other sites.

During precipitation events, the ground may become saturated with water or frozen. This creates excess runoff from hard surfaces. This water eventually runs into our streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, or the ocean.



Why does stormwater management matter?

In both urban and rural areas, hard surfaces such as pavement, packed gravel and roofs prevent precipitation from naturally soaking into the ground.

Without proper management, the stormwater runoff from these impervious areas can cause flooding and damage to public and private property & infrastructure during precipitation events.

Even with proper management, there will be some severe storm events that will cause public and private property damage. Climate change increases this risk.



Who is responsible for this system?

Halifax Water provides stormwater services to tens of thousands of customers throughout Halifax Regional Municipality. Within your community, this may mean ditches and culverts or other underground pipes.

For others, it may mean storm drains in the street (catchbasins) and underground pipes. All of this stormwater infrastructure is managed by Halifax Water to help prevent flooding and property damage and enable safe transportation.



Why is Halifax Water responsible for stormwater management?

Responsibility for wastewater and stormwater services were transferred from HRM to Halifax Water in 2007 to ensure that stormwater service for residents was properly funded so it could be effectively managed and upgraded as required. The Halifax Water Stormwater Service Boundary is set by HRM.

In July 2021, Halifax Regional Council approved acceptance of additional roads from the Province and requested that Halifax Water assume responsibility for delivery of stormwater service.

Pending NSUARB approval of the transfer of assets and responsibility, Halifax Water will begin providing stormwater service in the expanded areas on June 1, 2022.



Ways we provide stormwater services

The system currently consists of:



**602 km
of Ditches**



**17,556
Culverts**



**46
Retention
ponds &
Holding
Tanks**



**24,695
Catchbasins**



**1,140 km
of Pipe**



What is the value for Halifax Water stormwater customers?

The flow of stormwater through and around our entire community must be managed to protect your property, public infrastructure (e.g., roads) and the environment.

As part of this service, Halifax Water conducts routine inspections of the system within the service boundary. This includes monitoring for any blockages and affecting the necessary repairs, including removing the blockage in the ditch or culvert and repairing or replacing culverts.



Who is responsible for what?

Until June 1, 2022, the Province of Nova Scotia is responsible for ditches, culverts, roads, bridges, etc., in these two areas.

Halifax Water

Subject to NSUARB approval, on June 1, 2022, Halifax Water will become responsible for the efficient flow of stormwater through the stormwater system. This includes:

- ditches
- culverts
- catchbasins
- retention ponds
- & other public stormwater assets

Note: **Halifax Water is not responsible for the cosmetic grooming of ditches.**

The utility will clear blockages of soil and vegetation in a ditch or culvert if it stops the flow of stormwater.



Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)

On June 1, 2022, HRM will become responsible for:

- roads
- bridges
- roadside access
- road visibility/sight-lines at intersections, near signs, and around curves
- other non-stormwater assets in the right-of-way

Note: The municipality is responsible for vegetation in a ditch if it obstructs the right of way, or if it causes a visibility issue within the right of way. **Halifax Water is responsible for vegetation in a ditch that obstructs water flow.**



What is an impervious area?



Impervious areas are hard surfaces that do not absorb water the same way that more natural surfaces do, such as ***roofs, asphalt, concrete, and packed gravel.***

If stormwater flows from a property to the stormwater system, that property receives stormwater service (regardless of whether or not there is a ditch along the property.)



Current Residential Stormwater Rates

Tier	Total Impervious Area on Property	Annual Halifax Water Site-Related Flow (SRF) Charge	Annual HRM Right-of-Way (ROW) Charge	Total Annual Stormwater Charges
Tier 1	Less than 50m ²	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tier 2	50m ² to 200m ²	\$14	\$40	\$54
Tier 3	210m ² to 400m ²	\$27	\$40	\$67
Tier 4	410m ² to 800m ²	\$54	\$40	\$94
Tier 5	Greater than 810m ²	\$81	\$40	\$121
Culvert Only Service	Less than 50m ²	\$14	\$40	\$54



How are property owners charged?

Customers who receive stormwater services will see two stormwater charges on their Halifax Water bills:

Site-Related Flow (SRF) charge:

A Halifax Water charge based on the stormwater that flows from each private property into the Halifax Water stormwater system. This charge is calculated based on the impervious area on the property. Properties with more impervious area (i.e., roofs, asphalt, concrete, and packed gravel) would pay more than those with less impervious area.

The SRF charge currently ranges from \$14 to \$81 annually or up to approximately \$0.23 per day.

HRM Right-of-Way (ROW) charge:

HRM is required to pay the charge for their impervious area (roads and sidewalks). Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) funds its portion of stormwater expenses through a ROW charge. Halifax Water collects this charge on behalf of Halifax Regional Municipality.

Halifax Water collects this \$40 annual charge on behalf of HRM.

Halifax Water	
====	
====	
====	
====	
====	
Stormwater Charge	\$
HRM Right of Way Charge	\$
====	
	\$\$



Timeline



July 16, 2021	Proposed transfer of Roads from Province to HRM	Halifax Regional Municipality staff submitted a proposal to Halifax Regional Council (Council) to approve a road transfer from the Province of Nova Scotia. This is in accordance with a Road Transfer Agreement (titled HRM-01) between HRM and the Province, which was signed in 1996.
July 20, 2021	HRM Council approves transfer	Council voted on these road transfers. Council voted to formally request that Halifax Water take responsibility for stormwater services in the expanded area set by HRM.
September 2021	Halifax Water staff conducts preliminary assessments of infrastructure	Halifax Water staff visited the proposed areas of expanded stormwater service for preliminary assessments of the stormwater management infrastructure. Further assessment work in these areas will continue on an ongoing basis.
October 13, 2021	Halifax Water submits an application to the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board (NSUARB)	Halifax Water submitted a regulatory application to the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board (NSUARB) to accept responsibility for stormwater management in these areas.
Late October 2021	Halifax Water notifies impacted communities	Halifax Water communicated to the residents in the expansion area about upcoming changes to stormwater management in their communities.
November 2021 - June 2022	In-depth assessment of infrastructure	Halifax Water will conduct a comprehensive assessment of stormwater flows and infrastructure in these new areas.
February 2, 2022	Deadline for Letters of Comment to the NSUARB	Letters of Comment to the NSUARB from anyone wishing to make comments must be filed with the NSUARB by this date. More information is available at <i>halifaxwater.ca/regulatory-hearings-filings#M10295</i>
Early 2022	NSUARB decision expected	The decision from NSUARB is expected in the first few months of 2022.
June 1, 2022	Subject to approval, stormwater service begins	Subject to NSUARB approval of the transfer, Halifax Water will begin providing stormwater service in the expanded area.
Late 2022	Property owners will be notified by Halifax Water	Halifax Water will contact property owners who have properties that receive stormwater service from Halifax Water.
January - April 2023	The first stormwater service bills in these areas	The first stormwater service bills will be delivered to those property owners who have been determined to receive stormwater service from Halifax Water.

