

Stormwater Rate Study

The City of Vaughan is conducting a Stormwater Rate Study to ensure our stormwater management system remains financially sustainable both now and into the future. Through this study, the City will assess the current stormwater rate structure and evaluate several alternative rate structures to identify a model that is fair, equitable, affordable and financially sustainable.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rain and melted snow that runs off roofs, driveways and other land surfaces. Hard surfaces, such as parking lots, driveways and rooftops, prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, the water runs into the City's catch basins (stormwater drains) and ditches, and then to our creeks and streams.

Unmanaged stormwater can lead to flooding, river erosion and carry pollutants and litter into the environment.

What is stormwater management?

Stormwater management involves controlling the quantity and quality of runoff that results from rainfall and snowmelt to address issues related to stormwater.

**Still have questions about stormwater?
Ask our team!**

Did you know?

The City maintains a complex network of stormwater management assets and services to keep our stormwater system operating efficiently, to protect the city from flooding and to safeguard our community. This includes a mix of assets and services, including:



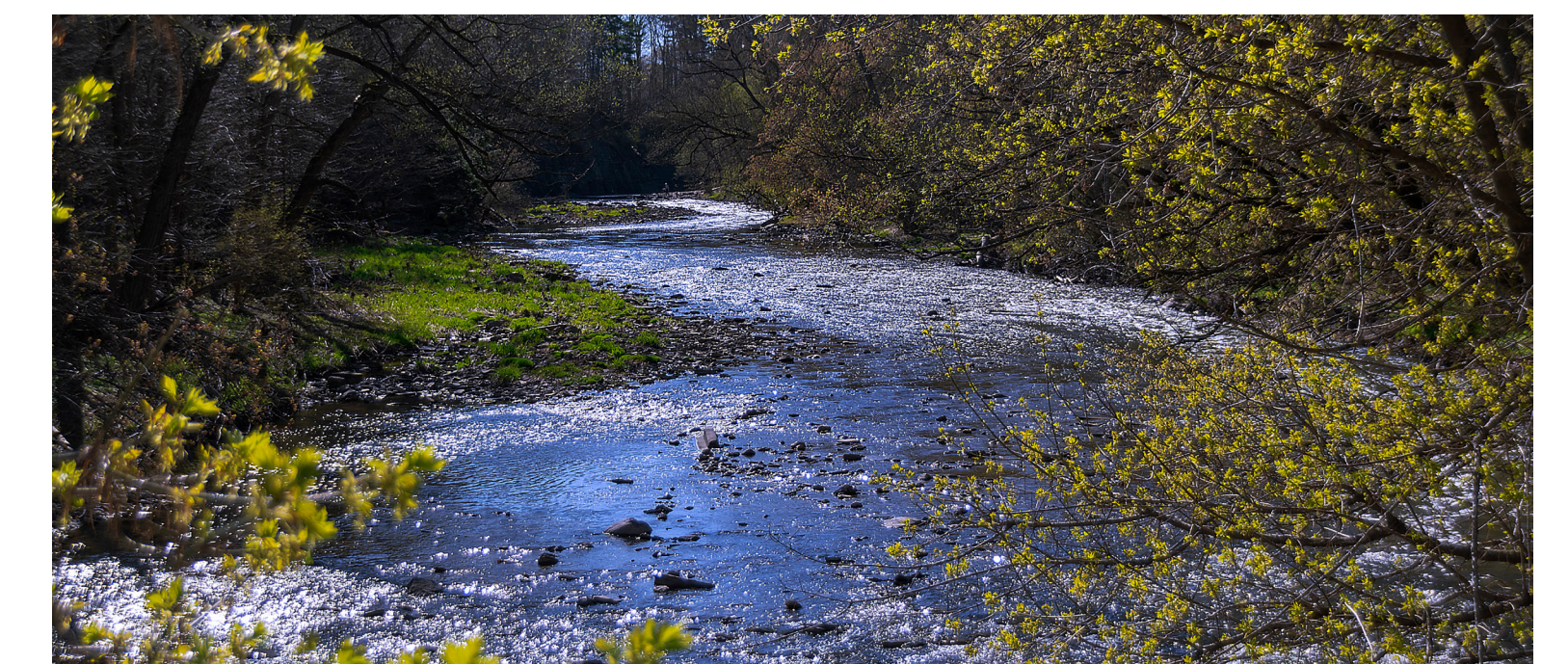
Over 1,000 km of stormwater pipes



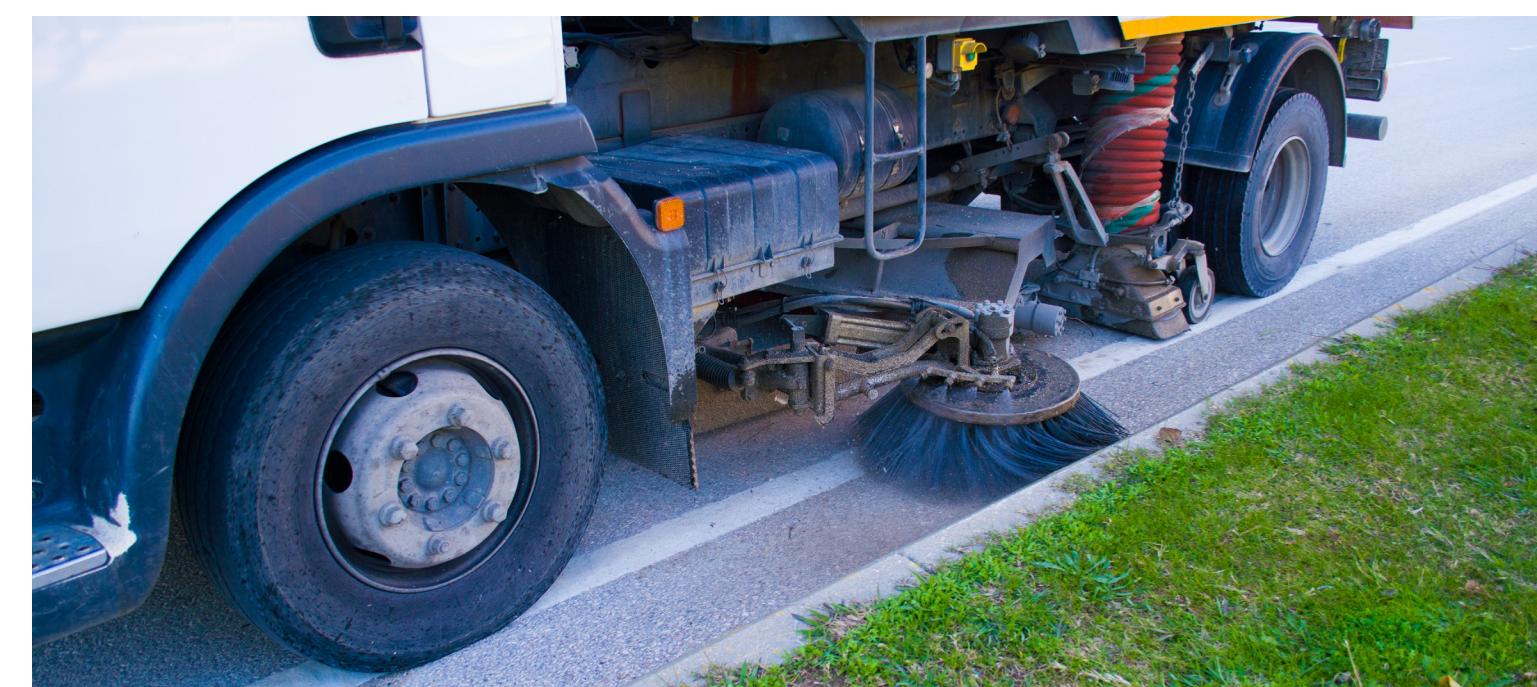
150 stormwater management ponds



More than 22,000 catch basins



Protecting 150 km of creeks from erosion and pollution



Removing contaminants from the stormwater system



Over 250 km of ditches

Stormwater Rate Study

Our current stormwater rate

The funds collected through the City's stormwater rate are used exclusively to deliver stormwater services and programs to meet the increasing demand and investment for stormwater management, including maintenance and operations, new construction and improvements. The current stormwater rate structure divides properties into seven tiers:

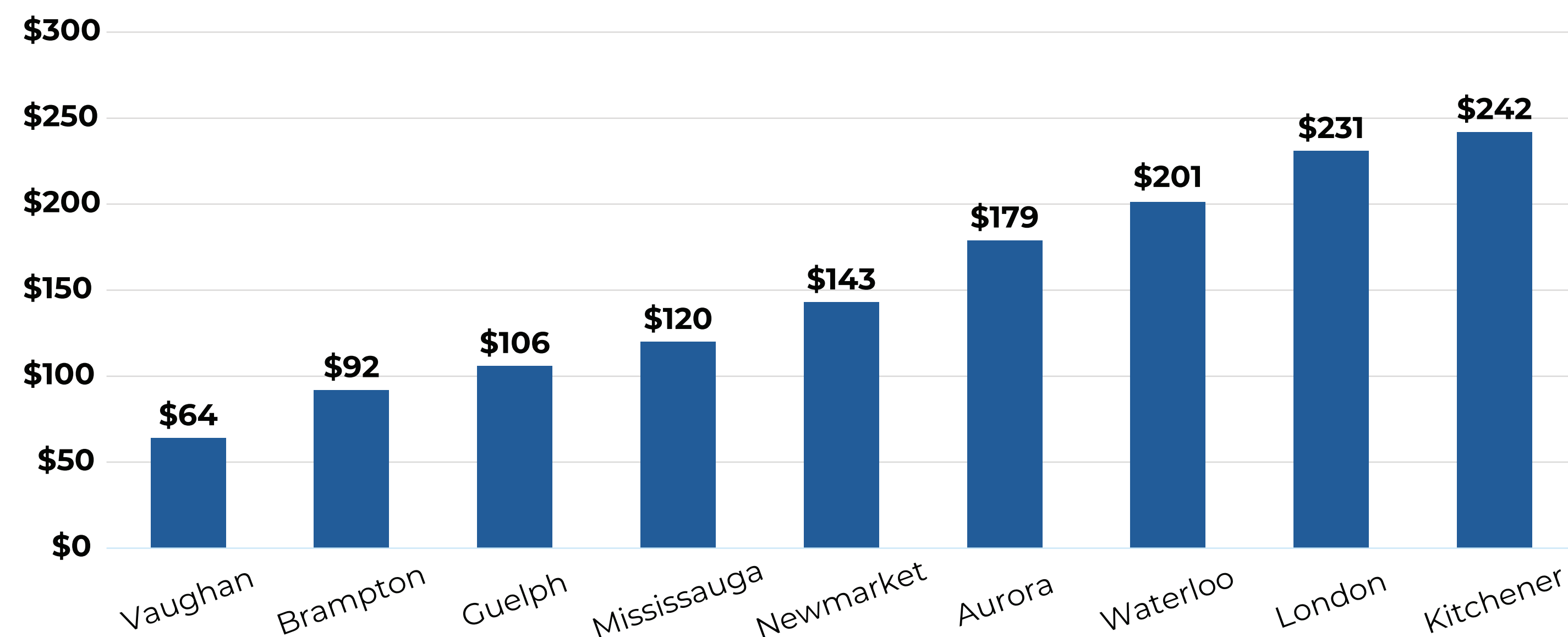
- Small non-residential
- Medium non-residential
- Large non-residential
- Agricultural/vacant
- Low-density residential
- Medium-density residential
- High-density residential

The current rates are applied to each property category uniformly, regardless of the property's individual characteristics, like the amount of permeable (porous) versus impervious (hard) surface area.

How do we compare to our neighbours?

In 2024, the average single detached home was charged \$64.20 for stormwater services in Vaughan. When compared to similar municipalities, **Vaughan's stormwater rate is one of the lowest.**

2024 Annual Charge for a Single Detached House



Opportunities to improve our stormwater rate

When developing various rate structures, different factors will be considered.



Let us know which factor you think is the most important for us to consider by placing dots here!

Total Surface Area – the total area of a property, including gardens, buildings and any driveways.

Property Type – grouping properties by typical uses, common characteristics and anticipated stormwater impacts. This is the primary consideration for the current rate.

Impervious Area – the total amount of hard surface on a property, including buildings and driveways, but excluding areas that allow rainwater to easily soak into the ground like lawns and gardens.

Help us shape the City of Vaughan's Stormwater Rate Study

Key criteria for refining our stormwater rate structure



Let us know which is most important to you with dots!

Comparability to industry benchmarks, including the rates and rate structures of similar municipalities.

Fairness and equity, including the degree to which the identified rate structure accurately reflects stormwater costs and impacts on the City's infrastructure.

Financial sustainability, including whether the identified rate structure will adequately and reliably meet Vaughan's current and future stormwater funding requirements.

Citizen affordability, including assessing the financial impact on the average resident and property owners in Vaughan.

Environmental benefits, including whether the identified structure may reduce negative environmental impacts and promote better stormwater practices.

How to engage

Take our survey: Scan the QR code below and take our survey by **Friday, Feb. 14** to share more detailed feedback on the study.

Dig deeper: Visit vaughan.ca/stormwater to learn more about the study and the importance of stormwater management.

Reach out: Contact the study team directly via email at stormwatercharge@vaughan.ca

