



2025 REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Stormwater



SUMMARY



Stormwater utilities across the U.S. manage infrastructure that channels rain and snowmelt to nearby water bodies. Yet, impaired rivers and streams have grown from 424,000 miles in 2010 to over 703,000 miles in 2022. While increased monitoring may partly explain this, over 60% of stormwater utilities cite aging infrastructure as a major long-term concern.

To meet rising capital and maintenance costs, utilities are increasing fees, though revenue still lags behind demand. The EPA's 2022 Clean Watershed Needs Survey estimates a 20-year need of \$115.3 billion for large stormwater systems, up from \$23.8 billion in 2012. Federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act has helped, but a significant gap remains.

FAST FACTS

- 42% of stormwater system operators say they don't have funding to cover all their capital needs.
- More frequent heavy rain and flooding events are testing existing stormwater systems.
- In 2021, the IIJA was enacted, soon followed by IRA in 2022, adding new funding of \$46 billion to assist stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water sectors from 2022 to 2026.
- More than 60% of surveyed stormwater utilities (643) cited aging infrastructure and workforce/staffing needs as critical challenges to properly functioning systems.

SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADE

- ✓ Establish stormwater utilities with rates that reflect the true cost of managing runoff.
- ✓ Use a watershed approach to address pollution and improve regional coordination on stormwater-related flooding.
- ✓ Encourage stormwater systems that combine gray, green, and natural infrastructure as standard practice in planning and development.
- ✓ Establish a database of the nation's stormwater assets.

To explore more solutions to raise the grades check out infrastructurereportcard.org