



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is the runoff that results from rainfall. As this water flows over construction sites, farm fields, lawns, driveways, parking lots, and streets, it picks up sediment, nutrients, bacteria, metals, pesticides, and other pollutants. Unlike sanitary sewers that go to a treatment plant, most stormwater is discharged directly to local water bodies. Cities have large amounts of hard or impervious surfaces that do not allow for rain water to soak into the ground. Parking lots, streets, driveways and rooftops are all examples of impervious surfaces. The more that cities grow, and increase in the amount of impervious area, it increases the potential for flooding from greater volumes of runoff entering the City's stormwater system at a faster rate.

### WHAT IS A STORMWATER UTILITY FEE?

Stormwater utility fees provide funding specifically for stormwater management activities including routine and preventative maintenance of the storm drain systems, design and construction of capital improvement projects, street sweeping, funding of our quality program which includes inspections and public outreach and education.

Businesses and residents within the City of Fayetteville pay a stormwater fee for these vital services. These services are billed annually on the tax bill that comes from the County. The City's code on the annual tax bill is STRMWATERFEE. In this document, we will breakdown what your fee is and what it pays for.

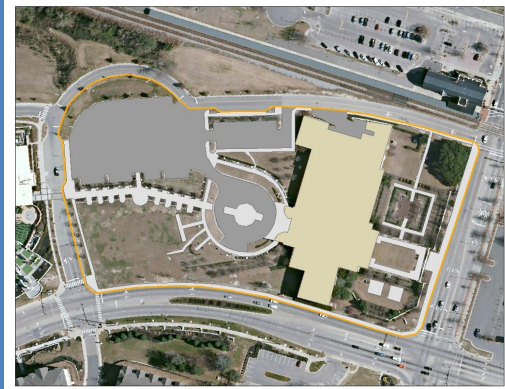
### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ME?

Under the City's stormwater rate, a single family residential property will be billed a flat fee of \$84 per year. Single-family residential properties include: single family detached houses, mobile homes on an individual lot, individual duplexes, and residential condominiums.

The stormwater fee for non-single-family and business property is based on a calculated number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERU). One ERU is the average amount of impervious area found on a typical single-family residence within the stormwater service area. It was determined that the average single-family residence contains approximately 2,266 square

feet of impervious surface. Therefore one ERU = 2,266 square feet of impervious surface.

#### Commercial Property Example



202,599 sq ft Impervious Area

$202,599 \text{ sq ft Impervious Area} / 2,266 \text{ sq ft} = 89.4 \text{ ERU's}$

$89.4 \text{ ERU's} \times \$84.00 = \$6436.80$

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAX BILL:

City residents are billed annually for their stormwater fees. Knowing the codes on your bill will help you understand what services you are paying for!

Code: STRMWATERFEE

Single Family Residential:

\$84.00 Per Year

Commercial Properties

\$84.00 per year for every 2,266 square feet of impervious (hard) surface.

## HOW DOES A FEE DIFFER FROM A TAX?

There are a few differences between a fee and a tax. The advantages of fees include:

- **Equity for Stormwater Contributors:** Fees are more proportional and give users more control. With fees, larger users pay more, and smaller users pay less.
- **Dedicated funding:** Fee income is segregated, and a stormwater fee can only be used for stormwater related costs. Tax dollars are available for almost any use, and competition for tax dollars usually results in infrastructure being under-funded.
- **Equity for Non-Tax exempt property:** Many properties in Fayetteville are granted tax exempt status, such as property owned by the City, County, School Board, FSU, and churches. Many of the tax exempt properties have large amounts of impervious area. This places more property tax burden on residents and local businesses, while a fee is charged to all users.



## HOW IS THE MONEY USED?

The revenues raised provide the City with a dedicated funding source to make drainage system improvements and better maintain it. The current stormwater fee generates approximately \$12 million annually. The fee also allows the City to comply with EPA NPDES stormwater quality requirements to reduce pollution. The generated funds will be allocated to 1) funding several watershed studies over the next 5 years to create a comprehensive master plan, 2) continue to fund capital improvement projects 3) maintenance and repairs of the drainage systems, and 4) complying with federal stormwater quality regulations.

## HOW DOES THE CITY PRIORITIZE STORMWATER PROBLEMS?

The City addresses projects with the greatest impacts to health and safety risks, property damage and community first. Areas where there is chronic flooding are considered high priorities. The City is responsible for maintaining the current drainage system, performing repairs and completing drainage improvement projects.

## THE CITY IS HARD AT WORK!

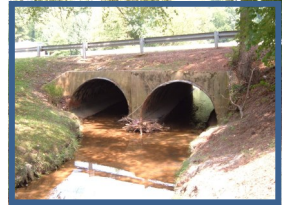
The City has been charged with performing stormwater work from the money allocated in the budget. Some areas of concern have been deferred due to a lack of funding.

Infrastructure needs have always taken a backseat to competing service demands and lower property tax rates.

The implementation of a stormwater fee has provided a dedicated funding source for larger stormwater drainage projects.

## HOW DO I BENEFIT?

You always benefit from adequate, properly functioning drainage and flood control systems which decrease the likelihood of flooding, erosion, and unlimited pollutants from surface water and stormwater runoff. You also benefit from the regulation and monitoring of the properties above and around you. Finally, efforts to protect our water system improves our quality of life and provides benefits to everyone.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information regarding the City's stormwater fee, or other general stormwater information, please call 910-433-1613 or visit our website at [www.fayettevillenc.gov/stormwater](http://www.fayettevillenc.gov/stormwater).

