

Norcross Stormwater Utility FAQs

Stormwater runoff is an issue few people spend much time worrying about unless they are driving home through flooded streets, seeing flooded yards or even worse, a flooded house. All properties contribute to the drainage problem, even the properties that don't seem to have a flooding problem. Stormwater is water that comes off our house roofs, driveways, sidewalks and roads when it rains. This stormwater then washes pollutants into our surface water. Taking appropriate steps to control stormwater runoff is an important issue for the City of Norcross. The City has been working to deal with stormwater management issues and has identified the following activities for the stormwater management program:

- Achieve Compliance with New State & Federal Regulations
- Improve Drainage System Operations & Maintenance
- Implement Capital Drainage Improvement Projects
- Increase Funding Options (grants, bonds, and user fee)

The City needs to repair ditches, replace small pipes and culverts with larger ones, and add pipes where needed. In addition, the City will also be cleaning pipes and ditches on a more regular basis, and much, much more. In order to do this, a stormwater user fee has been established for each City customer and will include all residences, businesses, institutions, and government facilities. You will find this fee listed as a separate item on your City tax bill, which will be billed beginning in September 2008 and continue yearly thereafter.

What is a stormwater user fee? The stormwater user fee is a charge included as a separate line item in the tax bills of all residents, businesses, institutions, agencies and organizations located in Norcross. The money that is collected can only be spent on stormwater management and improvements.

How has the charge been determined? The fee is being based on the total amount of impervious surface on a parcel. Impervious surfaces are areas that cannot absorb rainfall including rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, etc. These areas reduce the natural infiltration of stormwater, which increases runoff.

How much will I pay on my property? Customers will pay \$2.17 per 100 square feet of impervious area a year. For example, a parcel with 3,000 square feet of impervious surface would pay \$65.10 per year. Approximately two-thirds of the homes in Norcross have less than 3,000 square feet of impervious surface area.

How is the impervious surface area measured? The City is utilizing computerized maps, called Geographic Information System (GIS), as well as aerial photographs to measure the total square footage of impervious surface on a parcel.

Isn't this just another tax? No. Although the user fee is an additional cost to residents and businesses, it is not based on the ad valorem value of a property. An exemption from paying property taxes will not mean that user fees are not charged. The user fee provides a more reliable and equitable source of funds for stormwater management services.

Who do I call if I have additional questions? The City of Norcross Stormwater Management Program is managed by the Public Works Director, Mr. Craig Mims. Questions about the stormwater fees and how they are utilized should be directed to Mr. Mims at (678) 421-2069.

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