

STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A committee comprised of City residents and representatives from local organizations helped establish a Stormwater Utility in Powder Springs.

- ◆ Residents
- ◆ Home Owners Associations
- ◆ Churches
- ◆ Commercial Property Managers
- ◆ Cobb County School District
- ◆ Keep Powder Springs Beautiful
- ◆ City Council
- ◆ Public Works Department
- ◆ Community Development Department



Stormwater Advisory Committee

STORMWATER UTILITY RATE—BASIS FOR FEE

The most common method of setting the Stormwater Fee is the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). ERU is the average total impervious surface area of improved single family residential properties in the City, and is used as the basis for determining stormwater services fees.

One ERU = 2,840 square feet of impervious surface (impervious surface is a roof, driveway, sidewalk, etc.).

All residential property owners will be charged 1 ERU per month, to be billed annually.

Non-residential property owners will be charged 1 ERU per month for every 2,840 SF of impervious surface area on their property, to be billed annually (i.e. [impervious area] / 2,840 = [total ERUs]. For example 20,000 SF / 2,840 = 7 ERUs per month).

The Stormwater Utility rate for 1 ERU is yet to be established. The average rate for Metro Area jurisdictions is \$3.79 /ERU. The Utility was created in June 2011 and the initial billing will cover calendar year 2012 with a March 2012 due date. Subsequent billing will coincide with the property tax billing schedule.

Stormwater Utility revenue will not provide 100% of funding needed to support stormwater management requirements. The fees collected will be supplemented with other monies such as general fund, SPLOST funds and grants.



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STORMWATER UTILITY



Improving drainage
system operations
and preventing
pollution of our
critical water
resources.



STORMWATER UTILITY — USER FEE BASED ON STORMWATER RUNOFF

What is a Stormwater Utility? It is a distinct fiscal entity funded by a stormwater service fee to offset costs incurred in meeting stormwater management requirements. Property owners pay for stormwater management services based on the amount of stormwater runoff from impervious (hard) surfaces such as roofs, driveways and parking lots generated from their property.

How will the stormwater fee be used? The City has over 1,000 storm drain inlets and junction boxes, 400 outfalls, 80 ponds, 11 miles of trails, 27 miles of pipe and 35 miles of drainage ditches that must be inspected, maintained and/or repaired on an on-going basis. Stormwater fees are dedicated to addressing stormwater management and drainage activities such as:

- ◆ Inspections, maintenance and repair of the municipal storm sewer system
- ◆ Road-side and trail litter removal
- ◆ Business inspection/education program
- ◆ Public education and outreach program
- ◆ Minor flood reduction projects
- ◆ Street cleaning
- ◆ Storm system mapping
- ◆ Outfall inspections
- ◆ Practices to improve water quality
- ◆ Drainage system assessments and preparation of a master plan for system improvements



Stormwater infrastructure damaged in the September 2009 flood resulted in the need for costly repairs; some of which have not been completed due to limited resources.

Can the fee be reduced? A Stormwater Fee Credit may be obtained for certain activities such as upgrading a stormwater management facility (detention pond) or participation in a stream cleanup event.

Will this eliminate flooding? While a stormwater utility will help minor flooding or ponding projects, it will not prevent or eliminate a catastrophic flood as occurred in 2005 and 2009.

Want more information? Plan to attend one of the following [Open House Sessions](#) to learn more about this new program: [September 29 and October 20, 2011, 5:00p-7:00p](#) at the Ford Center Reception Hall at 4181 Atlanta Street, Powder Springs, GA 30127.

WHY DO WE NEED A STORMWATER UTILITY?

- ◆ The City must comply with Federal, State and Regional Permit Requirements for stormwater pollution control. Among other things, all Cities are required to identify, map and evaluate its entire stormwater system, implement an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program, conduct continual outfall inspections and prevent pollution from entering its storm sewer system and streams.
- ◆ Impacts to water quality and quantity from stormwater runoff affect drinking water supplies and damage public and private property.
- ◆ Portions of the City have aging and deteriorating drainage infrastructure that need to be repaired or upgraded.
- ◆ Stormwater management activities are traditionally funded through the municipal general fund. The general fund consists primarily of taxes and is used to cover a host of municipal services, chiefly public safety. The general fund thus cannot alone support stormwater management requirements.

QUESTIONS? CALL 770-943-8001 EXT. 354, 307 OR 770-943-8010 EXT. 102