



Protecting the Classic City's Water Resources

What is the stormwater fee?

In the United States, the primary cause of water pollution is stormwater runoff, which picks up contaminants such as pet waste, automotive oil, and discarded trash. To address this issue, the federal government requires local governments to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit in order to meet specific regulations related to proper stormwater management.

The NPDES Permit was created by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Clean Water Act. It contains requirements designed to help local governments minimize pollutants in stormwater runoff and control roadway flooding.

In accordance with the NPDES permit, Athens-Clarke County was required to develop, implement, and enforce best management practices for stormwater management. **This mandatory program required a significant increase of existing stormwater services.** The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government chose to fund the implementation of these new measures through the establishment of a stormwater utility fee.

How is the fee calculated?

The stormwater utility fee is based upon the amount of impervious surface on your property. Impervious surface is any surface that rain water cannot soak into such as roofs, sidewalks, and driveways. These types of surfaces increase the amount of water entering our stormdrains and streams.

Why a fee and not a tax?

Some of the largest contributors to stormwater runoff, including schools, churches, and government facilities, are tax-exempt. A utility fee allows these property owners to pay for their contribution to stormwater runoff. The establishment of a stormwater utility fee ensures that everyone contributes fairly towards the safe management of stormwater, flood prevention, and water quality in Athens-Clarke County.

For more information about the NPDES permitting system and Clean Water Act, please visit: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes>

What does the Stormwater Utility Fee provide for the community?

Just as we all contribute to water entering the stormwater system, we also share the benefits of the Stormwater Management Program. These include:

- Improved water quality
- Stream sampling
- Investigation of illicit discharges (illegal dumping and spills into storm drains)
- New storm drain construction
- Existing storm drain cleaning and repair
- Maintenance of publicly owned stormwater structures
- Street sweeping
- Shoulder and ditch maintenance within the right of way
- Flood protection through capital improvement projects
- Inspection and enforcement of construction site erosion control standards
- Project design and management
- Public education and outreach
- Clean up events such as Rivers Alive
- Compliance with federal and state NPDES Stormwater Permit regulations

Working to protect our waterways

Section 5-4-22(a) of the Athens-Clarke County Municipal Code states that only rain is allowed to enter the stormwater system. The stormwater system includes storm drains, retention ponds, biological retention ponds, ponds, creeks, and rivers.

If you have a spill - including car wash soap, automobile fluids, paint, and fertilizers - please contact the ACC Stormwater Management Program to learn how to properly clean it up. This can prevent an illicit discharge violation and help prevent the polluting of our waterways.

To report illicit discharges and stream issues, please call our Stormwater Hotline at 706-614-1282.

Stormwater Education

We offer group presentations to businesses, professional organizations, and residents of Athens-Clarke County about the stormwater program and utility fee.

To schedule a presentation, please call 706-613-3440.

Contact Us:

Stormwater Management Program
706-613-3440
stormwater@athensclarkecounty.com

In certain instances, properties may be eligible to apply for a fee adjustment or utility credit.

Visit our website for more information:

athensclarkecounty.com/stormwater



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Understanding Your Stormwater Utility Fee



**Athens-Clarke County
Stormwater Management
Program**