

The stormwater user fee system will provide dedicated funding, enabling the City to:

- build new stormwater facilities to mitigate flooding issues,
- perform pollution prevention activities to address regulatory compliance requirements,
- improve the operational function of the existing systems (i.e. catch basins, drainage pipes, headwalls, etc.) through an enhanced maintenance program,
- inspect detention ponds and other drainage system components on a regular basis to assess operational efficiency, and
- provide an enhanced level of service focused on minimizing flooding and reducing water pollution.

What Can I Do to Help Protect Our Water Resources?

There are many things that we can all do on a daily basis to protect our water resources. The City has pamphlets that discuss what you can do at home for water conservation and pollution prevention. One of the most important things you can do to protect our water resources is don't put anything in a stormdrain that you wouldn't swim in or drink.

How Do I Obtain More Information?

To view Frequently Asked Questions, the Stormwater Credit Manual, Stormwater Ordinance, or other Stormwater related information, you may visit the City's website at www.cityofsugarhill.com; or speak to someone at City Hall by phone or in person.



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CITY OF SUGAR HILL'S

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Protecting Our Water Resources

Management of stormwater runoff has become an increasingly important responsibility for local governments. Recently enacted Federal and State stormwater regulations, combined with aging drainage infrastructure, has resulted in local governments like Sugar Hill developing and implementing more comprehensive stormwater management programs to achieve regulatory compliance and address recurring drainage system problems.

Over time, stormwater structures such as pipes and catch basins can become clogged and/or damaged, lessening their ability to carry stormwater runoff. If these stormwater structures are not maintained, then when it rains in Sugar Hill pipes can overflow into streets and inundate existing drainage system components. To solve these problems and comply with stormwater regulations, the City of Sugar Hill is developing a comprehensive stormwater management program, and setting up a stormwater utility that will be funded primarily by a stormwater user fee system.

City of Sugar Hill

Stormwater Regulations

New laws have been established by the State and Federal government to regulate stormwater runoff and water quality. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) regulates the discharge of pollutants in stormwater through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater discharge permits and the requirements of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (the District).

The City of Sugar Hill must comply with its NPDES stormwater permit and the requirements of the District, which require that certain activities be implemented. These unfunded requirements involve the City undertaking specific compliance activities to reduce the discharge of stormwater pollution to local streams, creeks and lakes.

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Rainwater that flows over rooftops, sidewalks, parking lots, streets, driveways, yards, patios and other surfaces is called stormwater runoff. Typical development practices replace soil with impervious surfaces or areas that cannot absorb rainfall, which causes more stormwater to run off the land rather than soaking into the soil. This excess stormwater runoff then flows into gutters, storm sewers and drainage ditches that empty into our creeks and streams. The result is increased stream flows and higher flooding potential.

Pollutants from our lawn care chemicals, household cleaning products, car washing detergents, car engine oil spills or leaks, etc. can build up on impervious areas and eventually wash into our streams via stormwater runoff. Not only is impervious surface the single most important factor affecting the amount of stormwater runoff, it is one of the most important factors influencing the quality of stormwater runoff. The effective management of stormwater is necessary to protect your property and the safety of the general

public from poor water quality, damage from flooding, etc.

Why a Utility?

A Stormwater Utility is an entity whose purpose is to provide services related to stormwater management. Each user (customer) is charged a fee for the related service. In Sugar Hill the fee is based on the amount of impervious service that each parcel contributes to stormwater run-off. All funds received by the Stormwater Utility will be spent on Stormwater projects / services within the City. There are approximately 30 stormwater utilities and user fee systems in the State of Georgia.

Historically City residents paid County taxes that were used to fund both the County and City stormwater management programs. In August 2006 Gwinnett County began billing for a county-wide stormwater utility, which would fund projects and services anywhere in the County that the utility was operating. At that time, the City of Sugar Hill opted not to participate in the County utility, and the City did not allow the County user fee to be charged to City properties. As a result, the City has absorbed the cost of stormwater management over the last two years resulting in an increased financial burden to the City.

Sugar Hill has evaluated various options to pay for the stormwater management program. After extensive evaluation the City has determined that a stormwater utility and user fee system is the most fair and equitable primary funding source for the stormwater program. In addition, the City will continue to utilize other funding sources such as SPLOST, plan review fees, and land disturbance permit fees to supplement the stormwater utility fee revenue that is generated. All of the funds collected via the stormwater utility will be spent on stormwater projects and services within the City.

Stormwater User Fee Rates

The Stormwater User Fee Rates are based on how much impervious surface each property contains. The fees are based on a flat fee of \$18.00 per 1000 square feet of impervious surface area per year.

| <u>Impervious Surface (sq. ft.)</u> | <u>Stormwater Monthly Rate</u> | <u>Annual FEE</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0 – 999 | Exempt | \$0.00 |
| 1,000 – 1,999 | \$1.50 | \$18.00 |
| 2,000 – 2,999 | \$3.00 | \$36.00 |
| 3,000 – 3,999 | \$4.50 | \$54.00 |
| 4,000 – 4,999 | \$6.00 | \$72.00 |
| 5,000 - * | * | * |

* The Chart continues in increments of 1,000 square feet at \$1.50 a month (\$18.00 annually).

The City has adopted this rate in order to provide the level of service necessary to address the issues facing Sugar Hill. As mentioned earlier, the City could have adopted the County's Utility but would have resulted in a higher fee of approximately \$2.46 per 100 square feet compared to an average Sugar Hill fee of \$1.80 per 100 square feet (\$18.00 / 1,000 square feet per year).

You can determine your bill by measuring the square feet of impervious surface on your property and by using the chart above. Interested in reducing your fee? Refer to the Credit manual.

The Stormwater fee is anticipated to be billed annually as a separate line item on the property owner's property tax bill.

How Will the Funds Be Utilized?

All of the funds collected from the stormwater user fee will be utilized for stormwater management related projects and regulatory compliance programs within the City. (Continued on back)