



Stormwater Utility Fee FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is any form of precipitation, such as rainfall or snowmelt, which flows across developed and undeveloped surfaces. Stormwater that does not soak into the ground becomes surface runoff, which drains either into the storm sewer system, or a surface water body such as creeks, streams, rivers and lakes.

Why is Stormwater Runoff a problem?

Stormwater flows over rooftops, streets, driveways, and yards, picking up pollutants along the way and depositing them into our storm drains. Since Duncanville has a separate storm sewer system, our storm drains flow into creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. Therefore, any pollutant in stormwater runoff gets carried directly into our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes without treatment. In addition to causing water pollution, pollutants in stormwater can clog culverts, which can lead to flooding.

What is an Impervious Surface?

An impervious surface is a surface that has been compacted or covered with a layer of material preventing water from soaking into the ground. Impervious surfaces increase stormwater runoff and contribute pollutants. Example of impervious areas include; sidewalks, rooftops, compacted soils, gravel surfaces, roadways, ingress/egress driveways, parking lots, buildings, and other man-made structures.

Impervious area shall be measured in equivalent residential units (ERUs). An ERU is defined as 4,300 square feet of impervious area rounded to the nearest whole ERU.

A minimum charge of one ERU shall be applied to each non-exempt developed property.

What is a SWU Fee?

Stormwater Utility Fee was established to provide funds necessary to meet the regulatory requirements.

The Stormwater Drainage Utility Fund is a dedicated and sustainable funding source that provides for the operation, improvement and maintenance of the City's drainage infrastructure and the residential cost-shared bagwall program. The utility system spreads the impact across our city equally based on a property's impervious area. The City currently has unfunded drainage improvements that will be funded through this fee.

What are the Major Changes to the Stormwater Fee?

- Single-family residential property fee to remain unchanged at \$3.50 per month
- Minimum monthly fee of \$10.00 for non-residential properties
- No cap on monthly fees for churches or schools
- No cap on monthly fees for commercial and industrial properties
- Fee to be phased in quarterly, over a 12-month period, starting April 1, 2019.

How is the Fee Determined?

Residential

The Stormwater Fee for single-family residential property to remain unchanged at \$3.50 per month

Non-Residential

Each non-residential water meter account, the Stormwater Fee will be calculated based on the monthly rate of \$3.50 multiplied by the property's number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERU). The ERU for a property is calculated by dividing the impervious area of the property by 4,300 square feet.

At a minimum, the monthly fee for non-residential, non-exempt, properties will be \$10.

Which Properties are Exempt from Stormwater Fees?

1. Property owned by certain public governmental entities: (a) The State of Texas; (b) The City of Duncanville.
2. Property held and maintained in its natural, undeveloped state, until such time that the property is developed, and all the public infrastructure constructed has been accepted by the City in which the property is located for maintenance.

3. Property with proper construction and maintenance of a wholly sufficient and privately-owned drainage system.
4. A subdivided lot until a structure has been built on the lot and a certificate of occupancy has been issued by the City.
5. Public or private institutions of higher education property.

When will the fee increases go into effect?

You will see the updated Stormwater Utility Fee on your water bill starting in July 2019.

July 1, 2019 Drainage Fee = 25% of New Rate

October 1, 2019 Drainage Fee = 50% of New Rate

January 1, 2020 Drainage Fee = 75% of New Rate

April 1, 2020 Drainage Fee = 100% of New Rate

How are Customers billed for Stormwater Fees?

Stormwater fees are included on the monthly utility statement or other type of monthly statement.

Multi-unit properties with two or more water meters shall be equally billed based on the number of meters. Owner(s) of multi-unit properties may request specific billing distribution amounts through the City Utility Billing Department.

Will there be an Appeals Process?

Yes, an appeals process is provided for those non-residential customers/property owners who believe the ERU calculated for their property does not accurately reflect the total impervious area of the property due to landscaping, green roof systems, evaporative detention basins or other wholly sufficient and privately-owned drainage systems.

Appeals to the City for reconsideration of the monthly fee may also be made based on the volume of stormwater or other calculations as prepared and sealed by a professional engineer.

Any property owner aggrieved concerning a decision of the Director of Public Works may appeal the decision to the City Manager.

Questions?

Do you have a stormwater question? Call (972) 780-5010 or email drainage@duncanville.com.