



COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING YOUR STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

Q: What is stormwater runoff?

A: Stormwater runoff is all water (rainfall) that becomes surface flow and inflow that ultimately flows into drainage facilities, streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands or other waterbodies. Stormwater is prevented from naturally absorbing into the ground due to the presence of buildings, parking lots, patios, sidewalks and driveways. These are called “impervious” areas.

Q: How are utility fees used for stormwater management?

A: Stormwater utility fees are dedicated to the repair, replacement, maintenance and construction of systems to manage stormwater runoff. This includes stormdrains, detention facilities, etc., to prevent and control flooding. It also funds water quality monitoring and management required by the Federal Government (NPDES), erosion control efforts, stormwater master planning throughout the city, public education, mapping and inventory of public facilities, City coordination and involvement with other local agencies and local and regional efforts relating to environmental and stormwater issues. A five-year Capital Improvement Plan and a Stormwater Master Plan was developed to identify and prioritize repair and improvements.

Q: How can the City control the quality of stormwater?

A: The City is now required to meet certain water quality requirements for all stormwater discharged into the waterways and wetlands of our community. Streets are swept and catchbasins are cleaned to prevent pollutants from reaching waterbodies. Pollution sources need to be identified and isolated. Stream monitoring and outfall sampling has been implemented to trace illegal discharges and/or connections to the stormwater system. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce and control pollutants is necessary.

Q: How can individuals reduce their impacts on stormwater quality?

A: Regular car maintenance to reduce oil drippings and other pollutants on the road, use of biodegradable products for landscaping, car washing, etc. Recycling yard debris and not dumping it in waterways, drainage swales, or in the street: This includes blowing leaves, grass clippings, or bark mulch from the driveways or sidewalks into the street where it can wash into the stormdrains. Not draining oil, wastewater, antifreeze, or other chemicals into catchbasins. Cleaning up after your pets, not dumping excrements in or near waterways. Not treating roofs or driveways with toxic chemicals used for cleaning, use biodegradable products. Planting native vegetation. Reducing use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides in your yard and garden. Visit the following website for more info: <http://www.co.broward.fl.us/watermatters/wti01702.htm>

Q: What is the label affixed to the Catch Basin drain in front of my house?



A: These emblems are part of a Public Awareness Program to remind people not to dump any chemicals or hazardous materials into these drains as most of the catch basins labeled drain directly to a water body and anything dumped in these drains may pollute the waterway or cause harm to fish and other wildlife.

Q: Does everyone pay a stormwater fee?

A: All customers with improved properties within the City will pay a stormwater fee. The fee for residential property will be the rate for one ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) multiplied by the number of individual dwelling units on the property. Non-Residential and undeveloped properties are billed based on a formula relating to the amount of non-pervious area on the property.

Q: I am not connected to any stormwater system, there is no drainage system where I live, and I don't have any runoff, why should I have to pay a stormwater fee?

A: Although you may not be directly connected to a stormwater system, you are provided service through the Stormwater Management Program. This may be in the form of water quality improvements, drainage systems that protect area roads (on which you travel) or protection of your home/business from the impacts of regional flooding. The program is based on the premise that we all have impervious area that contributes directly or indirectly to stormwater runoff. Thus, it is essential that everyone be part of the solution that supports the program. The impervious surface approach is a fair and logical means of allocating these program costs.

Q: How do the fees I pay help water quality?

A: Stormwater fees are used to provide a multitude of services that help to improve water quality and protect aquatic resources. A few examples include:

- Emergency response to hazardous spills
- Identifying and eliminating illicit connections
- Cleaning sediments and other pollutants from catch basins and stormwater facilities
- Waterway cleaning of debris and floatsam
- Treatment of undesirable aquatic vegetation
- Street Sweeping
- Long-term monitoring to assess trends and effectiveness of flood controls
- Providing public educational information
- Designing, constructing and maintaining stormwater Drainage facilities
- Implementation of Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control inspection and enforcement

Q: What is that large, white truck doing on my street?



A: This is the Stormwater Division's VacCon—essentially a very powerful vacuum unit that sucks up debris from catch basins, storm drain lines, and sumps. The vacuum compressor produces 8,000 cfm (cubic feet per minute), a standard home vacuum cleaner produces about 85 cfm. The truck also has 600' of 1" hose, to which various nozzles are attached to propel the hose up lines and bring any debris back to the manhole or catch basin for suction and removal.

Q: How often do you clean catch basins and storm drain lines?

A: Our goal is to clean every catch basin (1247) in the City twice annually. Storm drain lines are cleaned while cleaning the catch basins as needed if excessive sediment is observed in the sump of the catch basin. The Stormwater Division also has the ability to televise lines to inspect their integrity and determine if repairs or cleaning are needed.

Q: What are BMPs?

A: Best Management Practices (BMPs) are a variety of managerial, operational, and structural measures that will reduce the amount of contaminants in stormwater and improve the quality of water resources. BMPs are separated into two broad categories: Source controls and Treatment. As the name implies, Source-control BMPs prevent contaminants from entering waterbodies or stormwater runoff. In contrast, Treatment BMPs are structures that treat stormwater to remove the contaminants. Most treatment BMPs require extensive planning, design, and construction. Here are examples of water quality programs and BMPs the Public Works Department is working on:

- Develop a comprehensive maintenance plan.
- Modify procedures for review of new development and existing stormwater design standards.
- Expand existing education program on use of non-polluting garden products.
- Encourage use of native vegetation on private and public property.
- Develop and implement an aggressive illicit connection elimination program.
- Educate public on harmful effects of dumping environmentally damaging substances to storm drains.
- Increase public education efforts to ensure that public and privately owned trucks do not spill, leak or otherwise release contaminants.
- Develop educational materials and enforce requirements for existing and developing industries.
- Develop a comprehensive erosion prevention and sediment control plan.
- Maintain up-to-date inventories and maps of the stormwater drainage system.

For further information you may contact Public Works Administration at **954-630-4414** or the Public Works Operations Division at **954-630-4430**.