

WHERE DOES THE FEE GO?

The money collected pays only for those activities which are related to stormwater management: to construct or maintain ponds, ditches, structures and pipes. Money collected from stormwater management is not used for anything else.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The benefits will be improved water quality and maintenance of drainage facilities, plus less yard and street ponding and flooding.



Stormwater management will protect the environment, reduce soil erosion, and generally bring higher property values.

Some improvements, including increased maintenance and completion of neighborhood projects, will be immediately noticeable. Others will take time.



For further information call 642-7610.

STORM WATER



AIKEN

SOUTH CAROLINA

Small Municipal Separate

WHAT IS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT?

Not very long ago the phrase *stormwater management* might have drawn blank faces. Not so today. In the eyes of many it has moved to the top of the agenda for many cities and counties in the United States, and in South Carolina.



In its purest form, stormwater management is a program that provides for stormwater system operations and maintenance, including collection, disposal, and treatment. It also provides capital improvements to include new construction and reconstruction of existing structures and facilities.

WHY IS STORMWATER A PROBLEM?

Development changes natural surfaces to impervious surfaces such as roof tops, parking lots, and roads. This reduces the amount of rainwater soaking into the ground and causes more rainwater flow into ditches, streams, and ponds. Unless properly managed, rainwater creates serious erosion and water quality problems. Stormwater runoff carries along with it pollutants, such as lawn fertilizers, and oil and grease from cars, which get into our groundwater supply. State and federal laws require cities and counties to address these problems.

WHAT IS A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY?

A stormwater management utility is a way to fund a stormwater drainage system by charging a fee just like water, sewer and other vital municipal services. Nationwide, many communities have a stormwater management utility.

WHAT IS THE FEE?

In July 1992, City Council set an average fee per month for single family residences. All other rates are based on the amount of impervious property area.

All residents pay their FAIR share. A stormwater fee is added to the monthly water bill to help manage and construct stormwater systems.

The stormwater management system must be maintained. Failure to provide proper maintenance reduces the pollutant removal efficiency of the system and reduces the system's hydraulic capacity. Lack of maintenance, especially to vegetative systems which may require re-vegetating, can increase the pollutant load of stormwater discharges.



HOME ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

TIPS FOR WATER CONSERVATION

We drink very little of our drinking water. Generally less than 1% of the treated water produced by the city is actually consumed. The rest goes on lawns, in washing machines, and down toilets and drains.

If you have a lawn, chances are it's your biggest water gobbler. Typically, at least 50% of water consumed by households is used outdoors. Inside your house, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used.



Do your lawn sprinkling early in the morning between 4 and 6 a.m. when the water demand is low. After about 10 a.m. both heat and evaporation go up, robbing the lawn of moisture. Sprinkling at night is fine for drier climates, but in humid climates the relatively cool moist conditions can create an ideal environment for lawn disease to develop.

Delay regular lawn watering during the first cold weeks of spring. This encourages deeper rooting and makes your lawn healthier for the rest of the summer.



Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.

Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. The grass blades grow longer and shade one another, as well as the ground, helping to fight off heat and hold moisture longer.

Is it possible your toilet has a secret leak? You can test it by putting 10 drops of food coloring in the tank. Don't flush for 15 minutes. If the colored water shows up in the bowl, the tank is leaking.

Instead of letting the water run in the sink when you want a cool drink, keep a jug or pitcher refrigerator. Don't let water run while brushing your teeth or washing your face. Just use what you need and save the rest.



Check every faucet in the house for leaks. A single dripping faucet can waste far more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week.

Water is a precious commodity. Use only what you re actually need. Encourage your family to keep looking for new ways to conserve water.

TIPS FOR LAWN AND GARDEN

Care for your plants and your soil. Healthy soil means healthier plants that will require less pesticide, fertilizer, water and work. Weeding and mulching may eliminate the need for pesticides altogether.



Mulch covers open areas with tasteful good looks, helps keep the ground from overheating, holds moisture that otherwise would evaporate, and discourages weeds.

Water your treated garden or yard carefully. Consider installing drip irrigation for individual bushes, trees, flowers and garden areas. Drip systems are designed to get water slowly and directly to the roots of plants where they need it most. They deliver water in terms of quarts or gallons per hour instead of per minute.

TIPS FOR SIDEWALK AND DRIVEWAY

Water that runs off your driveway and sidewalk usually runs down the gutter and into a storm drain. Storm drains are not sewers; the water they carry is not treated before being discharged into a lake, wetland, or stream. Excess oil, gasoline or anything else you wash off your driveway or pour into a gutter or storm drain goes directly *untreated* into the natural water cycle.

Recycle your used motor oil and antifreeze. Avoid oil draining receptacles that use "absorbents" such as sawdust or cat litter. There is no way to recycle or safely dispose of the oil once it has been absorbed. Clean up spilled anti-freeze and don't leave it sitting around. It smells and tastes sweet to animals and is highly toxic when ingested.



TIPS FOR LOT COVERAGE

Building homes, roads, and stores means removing vegetation and paving large areas. As we pave and seal more and more land, we allow less and less rain to infiltrate the soil and recharge groundwater supplies. This infiltration through the ground cleans the water (to an extent) and feeds underground water flows - aquifers - which supply drinking water and keeps streams flowing during the summer.



Plant another tree. Trees and shrubs capture and hold rain before it reaches the ground.

- Avoid landscaping plastic and use bark wisely.
- Don't spray chemicals on or around bark.
- Don't use bark on steep slopes.
- Surround bark with a barrier, such as lawn edging.
- Keep bark away from streams, driveways and street gutters.
- Avoid paving your lot.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard

Leave as much of your lot as you can in natural vegetation and trees - even lawns increase the runoff rate.