

City of Holly Springs



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Holly Springs Stormwater Utility

During 2009, the City of Holly Springs adopted a Stormwater Utility in order to oversee the city's stormwater management program. The decision to establish the utility is a response to aging infrastructure within the city that will need to be repaired or replaced in the coming years as well as increasingly complex regulatory requirements at both the federal and state levels.

The Stormwater Utility is responsible for implementing the City's stormwater management program, which includes maintaining the storm sewer system, achieving compliance with the City's NPDES stormwater permit and other requirements, reducing pollution carried by runoff, improving construction and development practices, and educating and involving the public on stormwater issues.

In order to fund the Stormwater Utility, all developed properties in Holly Springs will be assessed a stormwater service fee based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. This user fee is a fair and equitable way to fund stormwater management activities as it is directly related to the demand that each property places on the stormwater system in Holly Springs. The current utility bills include the first full year of billing for the stormwater utility. The previous year's billing only accounted for slightly less than one-fourth of the year, dated from the time of adoption of the utility fee.

What is a stormwater service fee? The stormwater service fee is a charge included as a separate line item on the annual tax bills of all residents, businesses, institutions, agencies, and organizations located in Holly Springs. The money that is collected can only be spent on stormwater management and improvements.

How is the charge calculated? The fee is based on the total area of impervious surface on a parcel. Impervious surfaces are areas that cannot absorb rainfall and include rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, etc. All residential parcels are charged a flat rate, while non-residential parcel charges vary.

What is an ERU? ERU stands for Equivalent Residential Unit and is the basis for the stormwater service fee for each property and represents the average amount of impervious surface located on a residential property in the city. Statistical sampling and analysis determined the ERU in Holly Springs to be 2,700 square feet of impervious surface. The billing rate is \$4.00 per ERU per month. All single-family, duplex, and townhome parcels are considered to be 1 ERU.

How is the impervious surface area measured? Impervious areas are measured using aerial photographs and Geographic Information System (GIS) data.

Isn't this just another tax? No. Although the user fee is an additional cost to residents and businesses, it is not based on the ad valorem value of a property. An exemption from paying property taxes does not exempt a property owner from the stormwater service fee. The user fee provides a more reliable and equitable source of funds for stormwater management services.

Why is my stormwater bill more this year than last year? The previous year's bill only accounted for approximately one-quarter of the year. The current bill represents stormwater utility fees for an entire year.

Is there a way to reduce my stormwater bill? Yes. Holly Springs offers credit opportunities (up to 40% off the stormwater fee) to residential and non-residential property owners for implementing measures that reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff from their properties.

For information on the Stormwater Utility, including information on credit opportunities, contact City staff or visit the website: www.hollyspringsga.us.

Payments can be combined with property tax payments. Credit cards payments will be accepted for a convenience fee.