



City of Stockbridge

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Stormwater Management Utility Public Meeting July 8, 2004

Why is the City of Stockbridge regulated under the NPDES Stormwater regulations?

In 1972, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act (CWA) to address pollution problems affecting our rivers and lakes. The primary objective of the CWA is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." One of the core programs of the CWA is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The CWA requires that anyone who discharges pollutants into waters of the U.S. must obtain an NPDES permit from the Georgia Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Many municipal stormwater systems fall under this mandate and are regulated by EPD. The City of Stockbridge is therefore required to obtain an NPDES Permit for discharge of stormwater from areas within the City.

What are the sources of pollution in our streams and lakes?

It is well known that uncontrolled stormwater runoff can be a major source of pollution in our streams and rivers. Untreated stormwater runoff from parking lots, roofs, and streets drain through the stormwater system into lakes and rivers. Illegal dumping, littering, overuse of fertilizers and pesticides and failing septic systems also contribute to poor water quality. In the long-run, the cumulative effect of numerous small pollutant sources is substantial. Many of the pollutants found in Georgia rivers, such as fecal coliform bacteria, oils, grease, and heavy metals, are directly attributable to our daily activities. Every person and property in Stockbridge contributes in some way to the overall task facing the City in this program.

What is the City obligated to do under the NPDES permit?

The NPDES permit for the City of Stockbridge requires that a number of programs and best management practices specific to stormwater runoff and water quality be implemented. These programs, policies and procedures mandated by the NPDES permit are referred to collectively as the Stormwater Management Program. Some of the elements of this program are to provide education and outreach programs for its citizens, identify and eliminate sources of discharges to streams that are harmful to the streams and the environment, perform timely maintenance of the stormwater infrastructure systems so they can perform as designed, among many others.

How much will it cost the City?

Although the cost varies over the years, it is estimated that on average over the first five years of the permit the annual cost will be \$466,000. This need is well beyond the present funding capacity of the City. However, the City is required to immediately dedicate the requisite resources to begin implementing the program.

Is the City getting any financial assistance to implement the stormwater program?

This is an unfunded mandate. No funding assistance is being provided by the federal or state governments for implementation of the NPDES permit program.

So, how will the City fund the stormwater program?

After a careful and much considered process of study and evaluation, the City has determined that the most rational and equitable way to fund this federally mandated program is to establish a stormwater utility and fund it through stormwater service fees.

Who will pay the stormwater fees?

The stormwater service fees will be assessed for all parcels of land, including tax-exempt properties reflecting the impact of stormwater runoff from all land in the City.

How will the fees be calculated?

The fees will be determined on the basis of size and the amount of impervious surfaces of each parcel (e.g., structural footprints, driveways, parking lots, and anything else that does not permit the infiltration of water into the ground).

The formula for calculating the annual fees is as follows:

$$\text{Annual Fee} = \text{IR} \times \text{ERU} + \text{AF}$$

- IR = Impervious area rate factor - \$15.70
- ERU = Equivalent runoff unit @ 2,000 sq. ft. of impervious area
- AF = Administrative charge - \$3.66 per parcel
- Tiered flat rates for single family residential:
 - Less than 10,000 sq. ft. parcel size = \$19.36/year
 - Greater than 10,000 sq. ft. = \$35.06/year
- Fees for all other properties will be assessed based on the number of ERUs and the AF
- Minimum annual fee per parcel = \$19.36/year

When will the City start to bill stormwater fee and will I get a separate bill for it?

The Mayor and Council will consider the adoption of the stormwater fee rate structure and the Stormwater Management Utility Ordinance at the July 12, 2004 meeting. If adopted, the fee will be included in the 2004 ad valorem tax bills in September. It is important to note that it is a fee and not a tax simply because the fee is billed on the tax bill.

Will the fees be used to fund any other programs?

The stormwater fees will be used exclusively to fund the City's Stormwater Management Program and to meet the mandatory obligations of the NPDES Stormwater Permit.

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

City staff can be contacted for further information at the City Hall at 4545 North Henry Boulevard, Stockbridge, by calling (770) 389-7900, or by email cityhall@cityofstockbridge.com.