

Stormwater Utility Billing F.A.Q.

Question: Why will I be billed a stormwater utility fee?

Answer: All developed pieces of property in the City of Clemson produce stormwater runoff. The stormwater utility fee is a charge which will only be used for the Stormwater Utility to provide services to the Citizens of the City of Clemson by managing the stormwater system to standards mandated by the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) and federally by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Question: How much will the Stormwater Utility be per month?

Answer: Each month residents in the City of Clemson will be charged \$4.00 per month for stormwater services, Commercial properties will be charged three times that rate, which will be \$12.00 per month for stormwater services.

Question: How will the City of Clemson Collect the Stormwater Utility Fee?

Answer: The fee will be added to your monthly water bill.

Question: When will I see the first billing of the Stormwater Fee?

Answer: The first billing of the Stormwater fee will be on the billing cycle that begins May 7, 2015.

Question: How was the monthly Stormwater Utility Fee Calculated?

Answer: The City of Clemson evaluated the requirements of providing a consistent level of service to the Citizens by looking at the funding requirements for the first two years of the Stormwater Utility and devised the Residential Unit fee to be \$4.00 per month and the Commercial Unit fee to be 3 times the Residential Unit fee or \$12.00 per month. The additional benefit of a stormwater user fee is that all stormwater user fee revenues are spent on stormwater management and drainage related issues.

Question: Will the City receive financial support from State or Federal Government?

Answer: No. The program which requires the City to manage stormwater is unfunded and the city must take the burden of all the cost associated with the program.

Question: What will the Stormwater Utility fee be used for?

Answer: The Stormwater Utility fee will be used for several items:

- Personnel Cost: The City will have to hire staff to operate and maintain the stormwater utility,
- Environmental testing to monitor water quality and contamination,
- Equipment cost: The city will need to purchase equipment to ensure proper maintenance the stormwater system,
- Updating and emergency repairs of the stormwater system, and
- Public outreach/education/participation programs

Question: Why do I have to pay when I do not have any drainage problems?

Answer: Everyone in the City benefits from the stormwater maintenance program. If stormwater runs off your property, the City must have a program and funding to manage the increase in runoffs and pollutants. Direct benefits include protecting your property from upstream runoff, protecting properties downstream from your runoff, and improving water quality in the streams to which the City's stormwater system outfalls.

Question: What is Stormwater runoff?

Answer: Stormwater runoff is rainfall that drains from rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, roads, compacted soil, gravel, and other surfaces that prohibit rainwater from entering the groundwater. Once stormwater runoff leaves personal/commercial property it then flows into the City's drainage system and into local streams/creeks and eventually into Lake Hartwell. All residences/commercial property in the city contribute stormwater runoff to the drainage system and in some cases to recurring drainage problems. In addition to flooding problems, stormwater runoff washes chemicals, debris, trash and other pollutants into the drainage system and eventually into Lake Hartwell. The movement of these pollutants to local waters can result in adverse impacts to the environment.

Question: Why does the City of Clemson need to Manage Stormwater runoff?

Answer: The City of Clemson needs to Manage Stormwater runoff to ensure that we comply with regulations put in place by SCDHEC and the EPA. Also by managing stormwater runoff the City can prevent pollution of the lakes, streams, and rivers that its citizens enjoy and maintain and improve the City's stormwater conveyance system.

Question: Why is the City of Clemson starting a new Utility?

Answer: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegated authority to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to implement the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) in the State of South Carolina. The Last census classifies the City of Clemson as an urbanized area which requires the city of seek MS4 coverage.

Question: What is an MS4?

Answer: A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS4 is the publically owned stormwater conveyance system which captures stormwater runoff from properties located within the City Limit. The stormwater conveyance system then discharges into waters of the state. These conveyance systems must not also be part of a public owned treatment works and may not operate as a combined sewer.

Question: What are waters of the state?

Answer: South Carolina Pollution Control Act defines Waters of the State as: lakes, bays, sounds, ponds, impounding reservoirs, springs, wells, rivers, streams, creeks estuaries, marshes, inlets, canals, the Atlantic Ocean within the territorial limits of the state and all other bodies of surface or underground water, natural or artificial, public or private, inland or coastal, fresh or salt, which are wholly or partially within or bordering the State or within its jurisdiction.

Question: Will the City fix stormwater issues on my private property?

Answer: No. The MS4 permit will only give the City of Clemson authority to work on stormwater infrastructure in the public right-of-way. The permit will grant the city the ability to gain right-of-entry access and enforce stormwater related issues.

Question: What will the city be required to do as a regulated MS4?

Answer: The city will be required to monitor and take action on the following issues;

- Public education regarding pollution control and drainage issues,
- Address pollution prevention of Waters of the State,
- Public participation on stormwater issues affecting citizens,
- Test for illicit discharges and connections and assure their elimination from the system,
- Enforce construction site runoff, and
- Assure adequate post-construction runoff control.

Question: The stormwater runoff near my house has a weird Odor/Color or it hasn't rained for several days and there is a large amount of water flowing near my house where there normally isn't.

Answer: Please contact the Stormwater Utility either through email at stormwater@cityofclemson.org or phone (864) 624-1126.

Question: Who do I call if I have additional questions?

Answer: Please contact the Stormwater utility with any questions either through email at stormwater@cityofclemson.org or phone (864) 624-1126.