

Fee Information

All property owners will be charged by the amount of ERU's (equivalent residential unit) their property appears to contain. This rate will be determined by the average impervious surface area on a single family parcel in the Town of Fort Mill. All single family residential units will be charged under a single flat rate. These households are considered 1 ERU. All other types of property owners will be charged based on the amount of ERU's the property contains.

Draft Stormwater Utility Credit

For citizens who want to mitigate both pollution and stormwater flow into storm drains, a credit system will be established in order to reward their conscious efforts. The table below displays all possible stormwater utility credits. The maximum a property owner can receive is a 50% reduction. For further questions about the details of each credit please call (803) 396-9730.

Type	Potential Credit
Rain Barrel Credit	Up to 20% per ERU
Rain Garden Credit	Up to 25%
Impervious Surface Reduction Credit	Up to 25%
Pervious Pavement Credit	Up to 25%
Vegetated Filter Strip Credit	Up to 25%
Peak Discharge Rate Reduction Credit	Up to 50%
Runoff Volume Reduction Credit	Up to 30%
Quality Treatment Credit	Up to 10%
Low Impact Parcel Credit	Up to 20%
Watershed Stewardship Credit	Up to 10%
Education Credit	Up to 25%
Individual NPDES Permit Credit	Up to 20%

Who Pays the Stormwater Utility

All developed properties are charged a stormwater fee which includes residential, commercial and industrial properties, non-profit organizations, federal, state and Town owned properties, and schools. The only exceptions are public streets, which are designed to collect and carry storm water runoff.

How Is Property Measured?

The impervious surface is calculated using the County's 2009 aerial photography. If you believe that the area of impervious surface has been calculated incorrectly or has changed since the 2009 aerial photography was produced, the property owner can apply for an evaluation.

Has Stormwater Utility Been Used Anywhere Else?

YES. There are many stormwater utilities in large and small communities throughout the nation, with many more in the planning stages. Locally, there are 32 municipalities in South Carolina (74%) who have implemented stormwater utilities based on a survey conducted in 2012.

I Am a Renter; Do I Pay the Fee or Does My Landlord?

Under most conditions, the bill will go to whoever pays the tax bill for the property. For billing questions please call (803) 547-2034.

Stormwater Utilities

Facts and Information



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Stormwater Department
131 E. Elliott St
Fort Mill, SC 29715
(803) 396-9730*

The Issue We Face

A major stormwater quality concern is "non-point source pollution". As the name implies, non-point source pollution comes from numerous locations and is carried through runoff. The types of pollutants include toxins, metals, oils, nutrients, fecal coliform bacteria, leaking sanitary sewers, farm animals, and pets, etc. These directly impact water quality and now represent the #1 pollution source to our waterways.

Activities such as street sweeping, elimination of leaking sanitary sewers, and increased cleaning of storm drains can control these pollutants.



Fort Mill's Stormwater Utility

Since 2007, the Town of Fort Mill's stormwater discharges have been regulated under the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Maintenance has been covered in General and Gross Revenue Funds, and the town saw significant progress in developing its stormwater management program.

Due to the Town growing in both size and population however, a stronger permit took effect beginning in January, 2014. Additional funding will be needed in order to comply with our permit.

Where Your Money Will Be Going

The stormwater utility will provide the funds necessary to provide for the administration, maintenance, and improvement of the Town's stormwater systems.

Some of the services tied to the stormwater program include:

- State and Federal regulatory compliance
- Watershed planning
- Water quality monitoring of local waterways
- Capital improvement
- Public education and outreach
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction inspection
- System routine inspection and maintenance within the Town owned right-of-way.



Benefits of a Stormwater Utility

- Improved public health and safety
- Improved customer service
- Reduction of long-term capital costs through proactive maintenance
- Protection of property values
- Resources to help mitigate flooding
- Cleaner and safer streets
- Resources to meet existing and future regulatory requirements
- Improvement of water quality by reducing non-point source pollution
- Prevention of stream bank erosion
- Healthier habitats for the Catawba River and associated tributaries

Basis for Fee

A stormwater utility is similar to a water or sewer utility. These utilities charge a fee for services provided.

In this case, the stormwater utility fee charges properties in town based on that property's contribution to the need for stormwater management.

The utility uses the square footage of impervious surface, or surface that water is unable to soak into, on a property as the primary basis for the fee.

The vast majority of utilities across the U.S. have found this to be the most equitable way to charge and collect revenues for the stormwater management program.