

## Stormwater Fees

Funding for stormwater management within the City limits comes from the stormwater utility fee included on your bi-monthly utility bill. **These stormwater fees are billed and collected by the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA).**

**Stormwater fees go into the City of Wilmington Stormwater Utility Fund and are used only for stormwater management activities.**

### How are stormwater fees determined?

The stormwater fee is based on the amount of impervious (hard) surface area on a property and the cost of providing stormwater services.

### Single Family Fees

Single family households pay a basic flat rate of **\$5.75** per month (**\$11.50** total per bi-monthly utility bill).

### Commercial-Type Fees

Commercial-type properties typically have more impervious surface area than residential properties, thus creating more runoff and a greater burden on the drainage system.

To determine commercial fees, the City measures the amount of impervious surface area on a parcel of property and the owners are charged **\$5.75** per month for every **2,500** square feet of impervious surface.

## STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR STORMWATER UTILITY BILL?

Please call the  
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority  
**(910) 332-6550**

## Stormwater Services - Activities

- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Engineering and Design
- ◆ Construction/Capital Projects Management
- ◆ Routine and Preventative Maintenance
- ◆ Street Sweeping
- ◆ Retention Pond Inspections
- ◆ Public Outreach and Education
- ◆ Customer Service



## Top 10 Ways You Can Protect Wilmington's Waterways

1. Never put anything into a storm drain, drainage ditch, or creek.
2. Always clean up after your pet.
3. Practice good lawn care. Get a free soil test from the NHC Cooperative Extension to learn the exact nutrients your lawn needs. Don't over-fertilize, fertilize the sidewalk, or fertilize before it rains. Install native plants to reduce fertilizer, pesticide, and water use.
4. Keep yard waste out of storm drains, ditches, and streets. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer.
5. Put litter in the trash. Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
6. Wash your car on the grass or at a commercial carwash.
7. Recycle used auto fluids, like oil and antifreeze, at an auto parts store or the County landfill.
8. Dispose of chemicals, like paint and pesticides, during Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
9. Check your vehicle for leaks and repair them.
10. Tell a friend or neighbor how they can help protect our waterways too!



Public Services Department

## STORMWATER SERVICES

The City of Wilmington Stormwater Services maintains and improves the public drainage system for the protection of our community and the environment.

City of Wilmington  
Stormwater Services  
PO Box 1810  
Wilmington, NC 28402  
[wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater](http://wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater)  
Dial 711 TTY / Voice

Administration  
(910) 343-4777

Drainage/Maintenance  
(910) 341-4646

Stormwater Billing Questions  
(910) 332-6550 (CFPUA)

## When It Rains, It Drains

When it rains, the water that hits the ground has three basic options: soak into the ground, evaporate, or become stormwater runoff. In natural settings, rainwater is slowed and filtered by plants, soil, and other natural buffers. However, when rain falls on impervious (hard) surfaces such as rooftops, roads, and parking lots, it becomes stormwater runoff.

The amount of stormwater runoff increases as the amount of impervious surface increases. **Runoff flows faster across impervious surfaces and also picks up pollution.**

In Wilmington, stormwater runoff is channeled into a complex, interconnected system of storm drains, pipes, ditches, ponds, culverts, wetlands, and creeks. The following creeks form the backbone of Wilmington's drainage system: Barnards Creek, Bradley Creek, Burnt Mill Creek, Greenfield Lake, Hewletts Creek, Howe Creek, Smith Creek, and Whiskey Creek.



Impervious surfaces increase the **QUANTITY** and decrease the **QUALITY** of runoff flowing into our waterways

## Drainage System

Stormwater Services maintains the drainage system within the public right-of-way or accepted easements. Runoff from private property eventually drains into the public drainage system or receiving waterways. Because the public drainage system routes stormwater from higher land away from lower-lying properties and public roads, it serves a protective purpose.

**Roadside ditches and drainage improvements significantly reduce flooding on downstream roads and property.** The public drainage system protects both public and private property from the impacts of stormwater.

With the current level of resources, Stormwater Services is able to be proactive in our approach to stormwater management and effectively respond to situations as they arise.



In response to citizen demands for better drainage management, the City of Wilmington implemented a fee-supported stormwater utility to expand maintenance efforts and make improvements to the drainage system



## Comprehensive

Stormwater Services is dedicated to the comprehensive management of the public drainage system.

Comprehensive stormwater management includes: capital improvement projects, long range planning, preventative maintenance, and public education about stormwater runoff, water quality, and pollution prevention.

**Since stormwater runoff is a primary source of water quality impairment,** pollution prevention is integrated into stormwater projects whenever possible. In addition, the City of Wilmington is required to hold a permit from the State as part of federal EPA stormwater regulations.

**Comprehensive management** allows the City to budget and set stormwater utility fees based on the actual costs of providing services, performing preventive maintenance, and funding much-needed drainage improvement projects.



Our goal is to manage the **QUANTITY** and **QUALITY** of stormwater runoff in a **COMPREHENSIVE MANNER**

**Stormwater runoff does not go to a treatment plant!** Learn more at: [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater)

**Stormwater runoff carries pollution** (such as automobile fluids, fertilizers, pesticides, yard debris, litter, pet waste, and sediment) into the storm drainage system. This polluted runoff does not go to a treatment plant, but instead flows directly into our creeks, streams, and primary waterways like the Cape Fear River and Intracoastal Waterway - untreated!

**Polluted stormwater runoff is the #1 source of water pollution in North Carolina**