City of Fayetteville

City Establishes Stormwater User Fee Charge

Rain and stormwater run-off is an issue few people spend much time worrying about unless they are driving home through flooded streets, seeing flooded yards or even worse, a flooded house. All properties contribute to the drainage problem, even the properties that don't seem to have a flooding problem. Stormwater is water that comes off our house roofs, driveways, sidewalks and roads when it rains. This stormwater then washes pollutants and other environmental hazards into our surface water.

However, taking appropriate steps to control stormwater run-off is an important issue for the City of Fayetteville. The City has been working with a Citizen Task Force to deal with stormwater management issues. The top issues and recommendations coming from the Task Force are:

- Flood Control / Capital Improvements
  - East Fayetteville Drainage Improvements
  - Circle Drive Drainage Improvements
  - Pye Lake Flood Control Project
  - Medford Manner Drainage Improvements
- Operations and Maintenance
  - Improve City Responsiveness / Capabilities
- Increase funding options – grants, bonds, and user fee
- Compliance with State and Federal Regulations

To fix these problems, the City needs to repair ditches, replace small pipes and culverts with larger ones, and add pipes where needed. The City will also be cleaning pipes and ditches on a more regular basis, and much, much more. In order to do this, a stormwater user fee has been established for each City customer and will include all residences, businesses, churches, and government facilities. You will find this fee listed as a separate item on your City utility bill. It will be billed beginning in early 2004 and continue monthly thereafter.

What is the new Stormwater User Fee?
The Stormwater User Fee is a monthly fee included as a separate line item in the utility bills of all residents, businesses, institutions, agencies and organizations located in Fayetteville. The money that is collected is restricted to be spent on stormwater management and improvements.

How has the charge been determined? It is being based on the amount of impervious surface on a parcel.

Isn't this just another tax?
No. Although the user fee is an additional cost to residents, it is not based on the ad valorem value of a property. An exemption from paying property taxes will not mean that user fees are not charged. The user fee provides a more reliable source of funds for stormwater management services.

How much will I pay on my property?
Residential customers will pay $2.95 a month. Non-residential customers will pay $2.95 a month for each 3,800 square feet of impervious area.

Who do I call if I have additional questions?
The City of Fayetteville Stormwater Management Program is managed by the City Engineer, Mr. Don Easterbrook, P.E. Questions about the purpose of stormwater fees and how they are utilized should be directed to Mr. Easterbrook at (770) 461-6029.