

City of Memphis Stormwater Enterprise Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is stormwater?
Stormwater is the water produced during precipitation events. In Memphis, this is typically during rain events but is also produced when snow and ice melts.
2. What is the City's responsibility for stormwater?
The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), in accordance with the Clean Water Act, issues the City a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge stormwater. In accordance with this permit (typically referred to as the Stormwater Permit), the City is required to implement measures to minimize the potential for contamination of the stormwater. In addition to the Stormwater Permit requirements, the City is responsible for conveying the stormwater produced throughout the City through drainage ways for eventual discharge into the Wolf River, Loosahatchie River or Nonconnah Creek.
3. What is the Stormwater Enterprise Fund?
The Stormwater Enterprise Fund was established by ordinance and became effective in May 2006 to provide sufficient money to implement the Stormwater Permit, construct and maintain the stormwater drainage system, and implement measures for flood control and protection. Every owner pays a stormwater fee for developed property.
4. What is impervious area?
Impervious area is a surface that does not allow water to migrate through it. Examples of impervious area include surfaces such as concrete, asphalt and roof tops.
5. What is a single family unit (SFU)?
A single family unit (SFU) is the amount of impervious area on the average single family home in Memphis. One SFU is equal to 3,147 square feet of impervious area. The number of SFUs on a property is used to calculate the amount of the stormwater fee.

6. How is my residential stormwater fee calculated?
The stormwater fee is calculated based on the number of SFUs assessed to the property.

All single family homes are classified as small, average or large with an associated SFU as shown below:

1,841 square feet of impervious area or less equals 0.58 SFU
1,842 – 4,794 square feet of impervious area equals 1 SFU
4,794 square feet of impervious area or more equals 1.52 SFU

Non-single family homes and associated SFUs are as shown below:

multi-family homes equal 0.41 SFU
town homes/condominiums equal 0.57 SFU
mobile homes equal 0.77 SFU
apartments equal 0.13 SFU

The stormwater fee is determined by multiplying the applicable SFU from above by the SFU rate at the current time. As of January 2013 the rate is \$4.02 per SFU. Based on this rate, if you live in a home with 5,000 square feet of impervious area, your stormwater fee will be 1.52 times \$4.02 or \$6.11 per month. If you live in a high rise apartment, your stormwater fee will be 0.13 times \$4.02 or \$0.52 per month.

7. How is a non-residential stormwater fee calculated?
Non-residential property is defined as developed commercial, industrial, governmental, institutional, or agricultural properties. The stormwater fee is calculated based on the number of SFUs assessed to the property. For example, the number of SFUs for a commercial property with 10,000 square feet of impervious area would be determined by dividing 10,000 square feet by 3,147 (number of square feet per SFU). In this example the number of SFUs would be 3.2.

The stormwater fee is determined by multiplying the applicable SFU (3.2 for this example) by the SFU rate at the current time. As of January 2013 the rate is \$4.02 per SFU. Based on this rate, the stormwater fee in this example would be 3.2 times \$4.02 or \$12.86 per month.

8. Are stormwater fee credits available?
There are no credits available for residential properties. Non-residential property owners may apply for a credit toward their stormwater fee by implementing measures that either reduce the volume or improve the quality of stormwater discharged from their site. The specifications for these measures and the application procedure are provided in the City's Stormwater Fee Credit Manual. The copy of the manual is provided on the City's webpage.
9. What do I do if I think my stormwater fee is incorrect?
If you believe that you are being charged too much for your stormwater fee you can call the Stormwater office at 901-636-4349 to discuss. Please be prepared to provide us your Memphis Light Gas & Water account number, name and address. We will review your payment status and provide an explanation of the charges. If it is determined that you are being charged too much, your fee will be adjusted accordingly.

10. How can I get more information?
If you would like additional information regarding the stormwater fee or if you have questions about stormwater issues, please contact the City Stormwater Program at 901-636-4349.

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