



Morrisville

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To: Town of Morrisville Property Owners
From: Joshua Baird, EI – Stormwater Manager
cc: File – Stormwater Administrator’s Manual
Date: October 1, 2017
Re: Stormwater Utility Fees

The Town of Morrisville is federally mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Clean Water Act of 1972 to comply with a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit. To meet the goals of this mandate, the Town has to maintain a local stormwater program in an effort to protect our waterways for the long-term benefit of the environment through proactive measures to reduce pollution from development and educate residents about stormwater and their effects on water quality.

There is a significant cost associated with administering a program of this magnitude. On February 28, 2012, the Town Council approved Resolution 2012-003 pertaining to Stormwater Funding which gave them the ability to establish a stormwater utility fee for developed property containing impervious surface within the Town of Morrisville to assist in covering these costs. As part of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget process, the Town Council established a Stormwater Utility fee to provide a portion of the funding required to effectively administer the stormwater program. Starting with the 2012 tax roll, the stormwater utility fee is billed annually, charged on the Wake County Property Tax Bill, and collected through the County Tax Collectors Office. Those properties that do not typically receive a Wake County tax bill due to exemption or other reason will be directly billed by the Town of Morrisville.

If you are receiving this notification, your property is one of those Town billed properties. *Please remit payment for the amount listed on the billing statement accompanying this letter to:*

Town of Morrisville
Stormwater Utility Fee
100 Town Hall Dr.
Morrisville, North Carolina 27560

In an effort to provide you with a better understanding of the Stormwater Utility fee and its uses, answers to several “Frequently Asked Questions” have been compiled and are included on the reverse of this notice. For additional information about the program please visit www.TownofMorrisville.org/stormwater, or contact the Town Stormwater Division at stormwater@TownofMorrisville.org or 919-463-SOAK.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who pays the fee?

All developed land in the Town, whether public or private, is billed based on the impervious area on the property. Tax exempt properties and organizations still have to pay the stormwater utility fee as they contain impervious area that contributes to the runoff entering the Town's water bodies and must be accounted for as part of the Town's program. Properties that are not part of a larger common plan of development and contain less than 400 square-feet of impervious surface shall be exempt from the payment of the stormwater utility fee. In addition, cemeteries and public utilities shall be exempt.

How much is the fee?

Coinciding with the 2016 real property tax roll, developed single-family detached residential parcels will be charged at flat fee of \$25.00, single-family attached residential units (townhomes) will be charged \$12.50 and developed non-single-family residential parcels (including commercial, office/institutional, civic, apartment and condo complexes) will be charged a fee based on "Equivalent Residential Unit" (ERU) of \$25.00 per ERU. This rate will be reviewed annually and updated with the Fiscal Year budget discussions and established with the ad-valorem tax rate. There has been no ERU rate increase for 2017.

What is an "ERU"?

An "ERU" or "Equivalent Residential Unit" represents the average impervious surface area found on a single-family detached residential parcel. This was calculated as 2,800 SF for the Town of Morrisville.

What is considered "Impervious area"?

Impervious area is that portion of a site covered by surfaces that inhibit infiltration and promote runoff, including, but not limited to, buildings; pavement and gravel areas such as roads, parking lots, and sidewalks; and recreation facilities such as tennis courts. Impervious area does not include a wooden slatted deck, the water area of a swimming pool, or lawns.

It has been raining for a longtime, why is this coming up now?

Stormwater Management has been funded in the past through property taxes and other general fund revenues. Many aspects of the program and projects were deferred to pay for more critical operations such as police and fire; however, we recently obtained a renewed permit that assumes the majority of the program is in place, and have a dedicated funding source for operating and maintaining it. Realizing the importance of the program and need to be compliant with our permits, the Council has established the Stormwater Utility Fee to provide a program-specific funding source to satisfy our mandated requirements.

Why a "Fee" instead of Tax increase?

Since property taxes are based on the value of a property it is not an accurate indicator of how the developed area interacts with stormwater. The most influential factor on the environment is the amount of runoff (stormwater that flows off the property) generated by the development, particularly impervious surface areas. A utility fee allows the Town to bill properties based on the amount of runoff they create. In addition, the Town completed a study that determined a fee more-accurately allocates responsibility by directly correlating the amount paid with the amount of stormwater runoff generated by a property.

Do other municipalities have stormwater utility fees?

Yes, other municipalities in the area have implemented a Stormwater Utility Fee as a funding source for their programs, including Raleigh, Durham, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Zebulon, and many others throughout the state and nation.

What services are provided by the Stormwater Department?

The Stormwater Management Program will provide services necessary to comply with the "Six Minimum Measures" detailed in our current NPDES Phase II permit to the extent practicable based on available funds. A copy of our current permit is located on the Town's stormwater website here: www.ToMstormwater.org.

The Following services are not covered by the Stormwater Fund:

- Private property stormwater and drainage concerns
- Private property flooding