

## Stormwater Fees

Funding for stormwater management within the City limits comes from the stormwater utility fee included on your 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 **\$8.68** per month.

### Commercial 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 **\$8.68** per month for every **2,500** square feet of impervious surface.

**STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR STORMWATER BILL OR FEES?**

[stormwaterbilling@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:stormwaterbilling@wilmingtonnc.gov)

(910) 343-4777

## Wilmington Stormwater - Activities

- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Capital Projects Management - Engineering, Design, Construction
- ◆ Routine and Preventive Maintenance
- ◆ Street Sweeping
- ◆ Retention Pond Inspections
- ◆ Public Outreach and Education
- ◆ Stormwater Compliance
- ◆ Customer Service



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

1. Never put anything into a storm drain, drainage ditch, creek or waterway.
2. Always clean up and properly dispose of pet waste. **(\$250 fine)**
3. Practice good lawn care! Get a soil test from the NHC Cooperative Extension to learn the exact nutrients your lawn needs. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer. Don't over-fertilize, fertilize the sidewalk, or fertilize before it rains. Install native plants to reduce fertilizer, pesticide and water use.
4. Keep debris and yard waste out of storm drains, ditches and streets. **(\$250 fine)**
5. Put litter in the trash. Reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, and repurpose.
6. Wash your car on the grass or at a commercial carwash.
7. Dispose of auto fluids and vehicle batteries at an auto parts store or the NHC Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
8. Dispose of paint, pesticides, solvents and household chemicals at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
9. Check vehicles for leaks and repair them.
10. Tell a friend or neighbor how they can help protect our waterways too!



Public Works Department

## CITY OF WILMINGTON STORMWATER

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



**City of Wilmington  
Stormwater**

**PO Box 1810**

**Wilmington, NC 28402**

(910) 343-4777

Dial 711 TTY / Voice

[www.wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater)

**Stormwater Billing Questions**

(910) 343-4777 or email  
[stormwaterbilling@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:stormwaterbilling@wilmingtonnc.gov)

**Drainage / Maintenance**

(910) 341-4646

## 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.

Stormwater runoff increases as the amount of impervious surface increases. Runoff flows faster across impervious surfaces and also picks up pollution, which flows into waterways - untreated.

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, Mott Creek, Smith Creek, and Whiskey Creek.



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

## Drainage System

Wilmington Stormwater 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.



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

## Comprehensive

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

Comprehensive management includes: strategic planning, project engineering and design, construction of drainage projects, routine and preventive maintenance, street sweeping, retention pond inspections, stormwater compliance, GIS, customer service, and public outreach, education and participation activities.

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.

Since stormwater runoff is the 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 an NPDES permit from the State as part of federal EPA stormwater regulations.



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 pet waste, automobile fluids, fertilizers, pesticides, yard debris, litter and sediment) through the storm drainage system. This polluted runoff does not go to a treatment plant, but instead flows directly into our creeks 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**