

## About The Fee....

The Storm Water User Fee is based on the amount of impervious area on any particular piece of property. Your property will be included in one of several classifications.

1. Single Family Residential Property– This property will be charged one flat rate per month, also known as the base rate.
2. Other developed property– This is for property that is non-single-family residential. You pay no less than the base rate.
3. Vacant/undeveloped property– If the property contains less than 1800 sq. ft. of impervious area there will be no charge. If the property contains more than 1800 sq. ft., then the property will be charged based on the amount of impervious surface as other developed property.
4. Agricultural property- If the property's impervious area exceeds the ERU (equivalent residential unit) then the property will be charged in the same manner as other developed property.

### **What Does All of This Mean?**

The fee is based on impervious area. What is impervious area? It is a hard surface area (e.g., parking lot, driveway, rooftop, sidewalk, etc.), that prevents the natural entry of water into the soil, thus causing water to run-off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow.

### **So how does my impervious area turn into a storm water user fee?**

If you take the average of all impervious area in your neighborhood or shopping complex, etc., you will come up with a number. This number is what is called an ERU, an Equivalent Residential Unit. This is the number that the Town of Smyrna calculated after taking the average impervious area of the houses in Smyrna. You are accustomed to talking to people about how many square feet is in your home. This is the same concept, but addresses only the impervious area on your lot, from an aerial photograph, such as the roof top, side walk, driveway, shed, etc. The average impervious area of all residential parcels in Smyrna is 3,543 sq. ft. So, each resident will pay a flat user fee of \$3.25 to \$3.65. This number will be decided by Town Council. A commercial property will be charged per ERU. For example, a commercial property with 35,430 sq. ft. of impervious area will pay ten times the flat user fee

### **The goal of our storm water user fee is to:**

1. Allow the Town of Smyrna to comply with federal and state regulations (six minimum measures), an unfunded mandate;
2. Protect our water supply;
3. Provide long-term storm sewer system maintenance;
4. Provide education opportunities to our community;
5. Reduce pollution and flooding; and
6. Fund storm water activities in a fair and equitable way;

Storm water is becoming a greater issue as each day passes. With the unfunded mandate from the EPA and the State of Tennessee, it is becoming more difficult to meet our permit requirements. Our program has accomplished many things thus far and continues to strive toward excellence. While we all learn about storm water related issues, we hope that you continue your support in the community and hope that one day our children, grandchildren, and generations to come will have a healthy environment and safe water supply.



## Leave a Legacy

Please Contact Us and Visit Our Web Site For More Information on The Storm Water User Fee and How You Can Help Your Community.

Phone: 615-355-5701

Fax: 615-355-5786

Hotline: 615-355-5789

Web Site: <http://www.townofsmyrna.org/>

Public Works/Storm Water Management Program  
315 South Lowry Street  
Smyrna, TN 37167



Storm Water  
User Fee.....  
What is it?  
Why does the  
Town need it?



Leave a Legacy

As the Town of Smyrna grows, so does the infrastructure of the Town. The storm drain system must not only be properly installed but maintained as well. Now, we must not only maintain this system but take necessary measures to keep this water clean before it reaches our storm drain system, which in turn leads to our streams, rivers, lakes, etc.

The Clean Water Act of 1977 has now reached Smyrna, TN. The EPA has recently enacted a federally unfunded mandate in which surrounding municipalities, including Smyrna, must meet certain guidelines under a permit which is issued through the State of Tennessee.

There is a great deal of cost that comes along with this unfunded mandate and the most equitable and effective way to fund this program is through a storm water user fee.

To sum this up we are to follow and meet six minimum measures. These measures and cost include but are not limited to:

### **1. Public Education and Outreach**

- \* Develop a plan to educate the public
- \* Host public meetings
- \* Develop, compile, and distribute education material.
- \* Develop school curriculum materials and develop community-wide water quality education plan.
- \* Support Project WET in our school systems.

### **2. Public Involvement and Participation**

- \* Host public meetings/citizen groups or panels
- \* Host volunteer water quality monitoring
- \* Host volunteer educators/speakers
- \* Host community clean-ups
- \* Initiate citizen watch groups
- \* Initiate Adopt A Storm Drain Program



### **3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

- \* Inspections of all sources of illicit discharges: sanitary wastewater, effluent from septic tanks, car wash wastewaters, improper oil disposal, radiator flushing disposal, laundry wastewaters, spills from roadway accidents, improper disposal of auto and household toxics.
- \* Education addressing Illicit Discharges. (i.e.– informative brochures, publicize and facilitate public reporting or illicit discharges, initiate recycling programs.
- \* Create a storm sewer map showing the location of all outfalls in Smyrna.
- \* Through an ordinance, a prohibition and appropriate enforcement procedures.
- \* A plan to detect and address non-storm water discharges, including illegal dumping.

### **4. Construction Site Run-Off**

- \* Have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism requiring the implementation of proper erosion and sediment controls, and controls for other wastes, on applicable construction sites.
- \* Have procedures for site plan review of construction plans that consider potential water quality impacts.
- \* Have procedures for site inspection and enforcement of control measures.
- \* Have sanctions to ensure compliance.
- \* Establish procedures for the receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public.



### **5. Post-Construction Runoff**

- \* Develop and implement strategies which include a combination of structural and/or non- structural Best Manage Practices (BMP's).
- \* Have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism requiring the implementation of post-construction runoff controls to the extent allowable under state, tribal or local law.
- \* Ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of controls.
- \* Determine the appropriate best management practices and measurable goals for this minimum control.

### **6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**

- \* Develop and implement an operation and maintenance program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations into the storm sewer system.
- \* Employee training
- \* Maintenance activities, maintenance schedules, and long term inspection procedures.
- \* Controls for reducing or eliminating the discharge of pollutants.
- \* Procedures for proper disposal of waste.

