

Stormwater Utility Fee

In 1989, after larger cities in the State of Texas started funding numerous activities to meet federal and state water quality regulations, the State Legislature authorized local governments to create a Stormwater Utility System dedicated to the management of its stormwater (drainage and water quality) facilities and activities. The legislation also allowed for the levying of a dedicated fee to fund the utility. The State Water Quality Management Program is now requiring cities, like the City of Crowley, TX, to monitor and test water quality throughout the City. Crowley will also be required to begin inspecting properties for compliance with water quality management permits and to include best management practices for each facility and new construction project.

Additionally, the City has identified numerous existing drainage systems throughout the City that do not function properly during heavy rainfall with regard to draining excess stormwater runoff safely and effectively. Compliance with federal and state laws combined with identified stormwater safety concerns is of paramount importance to the City Council.

On October 06th, 2011, the City Council approved establishment of the Stormwater Utility. The City Council also approved a monthly fee to fund the Stormwater Utility. The revenue from the Stormwater Utility can **only** be spent on stormwater related activities and will provide a funding source for much needed maintenance, repair, and construction of stormwater facilities. The City must immediately begin performing several activities required by its permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) related to improving the quality of the water in streams and lakes.

Q. Will the proposed projects solve all of the drainage and water quality problems within Crowley?

- A.** The City Council is concerned about all of the stormwater problems; however, the City cannot afford to immediately fund repairs for all the known problems. Priorities for the Stormwater Utility funds will be established by the City Council; and the timing for the start of individual projects will be based on revenues collected.

The Stormwater Utility fee is expected to be needed for many years into the future. The stormwater fee will support the varied activities of the Stormwater Utility and may be reviewed with the budgeting process each year.



Q. Who pays the Stormwater Utility fee?

- A.** The fee is applicable to **developed** properties within the City limits and will be included with the water, sewer, and refuse (trash) bill. If the owner of a property normally pays for utility services on a property, the stormwater fee is sent to the owner for payment. If an occupant, or tenant, of the property is responsible for payment of utilities, the City considers the occupant or tenant to be responsible for payment of the stormwater fee. However, the owner is expected to pay the stormwater

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Q. How will the City calculate my non-residential bill?

- A.** The non-residential fee is based on the impervious area on the entire parcel and may be allocated to several utility accounts depending upon how the property is used by different customers on the property. The impervious area for each parcel was measured in square feet (SF) and was taken from 2009 aerial photography and/or site plans provided to the City with the building permit application.

Q. What should I do if I think that my fee is not calculated correctly?

- A.** The residential fee is a flat rate for each dwelling unit, or ERU, and can not be adjusted; however, the number of dwelling units on a parcel can be reviewed. Non-residential fee calculations can be reviewed for accuracy by City personnel. A customer can provide to the City additional information about impervious area or the number of dwelling units from land surveys or other documentation.

Q. Why will the fee be added to the water bill?

- A.** Crowley Water Utility's utility billing system currently bills all the fees for utility services provided to customers of the City, including water, sewer, and refuse (trash) collection services. The stormwater (drainage) fee is added to this bill as a separate charge. The funds collected from the fee will be accounted for in a Stormwater Utility fund that is separate from other City revenues.



Q. What will utility customers receive for their monthly fee?

- A.** This fee will enable the City of Crowley, TX to comply with mandated programs required to meet federal and state environmental laws. The fee will be used to fund stormwater construction projects and operation and maintenance expenses, which will help alleviate present flooding situations and address problems that cause a negative impact on the water quality in the streams and lakes in the area.



Q. When will the Stormwater Utility fee go into effect?

- A.** The Stormwater Utility was approved on October 06, 2011 and the Stormwater Utility fee for Fiscal Year 2012 will be effective **July 1st, 2012** and will be placed on utility bills after that date. The schedule of monthly rates also includes a fee increase scheduled for October 1st of each Fiscal Year for ten (10) years. The fee per ERU will be \$2.00, or \$0.00080 per SF of non-residential property beginning October 01, 2012.