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# CITY OF BRUNSWICK

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## Storm Water Fee begins in 2012

Beginning January 1, 2012, a new charge will be included with the City of Brunswick quarterly residential refuse billing. This fee is dedicated to storm water management activities in Brunswick. While the rate for residential refuse collection will remain at \$56.91 per quarter, a single family property will see a storm water fee of \$14.85 per quarter added to their billing. The \$14.85 quarterly fee represents one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of \$4.95 per month.

ERU's are determined by the amount of "impervious" surfaces on the property such as roofs, sidewalks and driveways or parking lots. These surfaces do not allow storm water to penetrate, or soak in the ground, causing run off from the property to storm water collection drains, culverts and streams throughout our community. Properties with a high concentration of impervious surfaces, such as commercial shopping centers introduce much higher volume of storm water into the collection system; therefore, they will pay proportionately more for the storm water system. **Non**-single family properties like duplexes, apartments, commercial, industrial and vacant land will be assessed an ERU pursuant to Brunswick Codified Ordinance Chapter 1050. The actual number of ERU's assessed for **non**-single family properties will be itemized on the next refuse and storm water billing for January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012 which should arrive before the end of January.

The entire community will share in this process, homeowners, businesses, commercial and industrial property owners, even schools and churches. The revenues generated by the Storm Water Fee will be used to offset the debt of approximately six million in storm water system improvements completed over the past decade, which have been successful in alleviating many of our community's major flood prone areas. It will also be used to maintain the overall system and offset costs associated with unfunded federal mandates for storm water control such as disposal fees mandated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and eventually be used for future storm water projects, based on the availability of funds. Debris collected when cleaning out catch basins, and even that collected by street sweepers must now be disposed of at an EPA approved landfill, costing our community approximately eight thousand dollars for each disposal.

We're not alone, the communities of Broadview Heights, Wadsworth, Macedonia, Tallmadge and others already have established a fee based storm water management program. One more thing to remember, while you may think your property is high and dry, it's probably because the water runs off readily to your neighbor's, which runs off to their neighbor's and so on. Each and every property in the community contributes to and is part of the overall storm water management system. More information on refuse and storm water, including responses to frequently asked questions and Brunswick Codified Ordinance Chapter 1050 can be found on the City's website at [www.brunswick.oh.us](http://www.brunswick.oh.us).



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