

Stormwater Management Utility

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the responsibilities of the stormwater management utility?

The City shall operate its stormwater management system (the "Utility") as a public utility and in such a manner as to provide and maintain open drainageways, underground storm sewers and drains and other Stormwater Drainage Facilities, equipment and appurtenances necessary, useful or convenient to provide a complete and adequate system of stormwater management for the City and its inhabitants.

2. What is the stormwater service fee used for?

To fund current and future stormwater projects, unfunded EPA Stormwater mandates and debt service on stormwater projects. More than 50% of the fee will be used to pay debt obligations for stormwater projects completed from 2003-2009. The remaining amount will fund unfunded EPA stormwater mandates and current and future stormwater projects/activities.

3. Why do I have to pay this fee?

Every parcel in the City has stormwater runoff and is part of the overall stormwater system. Each lot or parcel of real property within the City that is tributary, directly or indirectly, to the stormwater drainage system shall be charged a stormwater service fee.

4. What is an ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit)?

It is a unit of measurement, determined by the City Engineer, used to assess the service fee. Generally, because the amount of stormwater runoff from a property can be equated to the amount of hard surfaces on the property (impervious surface), the stormwater service fee uses the average impervious surface area for a single family home as the base unit. In the City of Brunswick the average property containing one single family dwelling unit has been determined to contain 3,500 sq. ft. or less of impervious surface. 1 ERU = \$4.95/Month

5. How do I know how many ERUs I am being assessed?

You can find your ERUs listed on the front of your refuse/stormwater bill. Under your account summary you will see "SWF-" followed by the number of ERUs.

6. What does "SWF" mean on my refuse/stormwater bill?

This is an abbreviation for stormwater fee. The City's current billing system limits the number of characters used and as a result we used an abbreviation.

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7. What is impervious surface?

Impervious surface means developed land that prevents or significantly impedes the infiltration of stormwater into the soil. Typical impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roofs, sidewalks, walkways, patios, swimming pools, private driveways, parking lots, access extensions, alleys and other paved, engineered, compacted or gravel surfaces containing materials that prevent or significantly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater into the soil.

8. Why is this included on my refuse bill?

The stormwater fee is billed on the City's refuse billing to achieve economies of scale and avoid any additional administrative costs for existing refuse customers.

9. When will my stormwater payment be due?

The monthly service fee will be billed quarterly in advance. A penalty of 18% will be charged on all accounts delinquent in excess of 10 days after the expiration of the billing period. The billing periods are as follows: Jan 1 – Mar 31, Apr 1 – Jun 30, Jul 1 – Sep 30 and Oct 1 – Dec 31.

10. If I think my fee is wrong, how can I appeal?

Any property owner aggrieved by a decision of the City Engineer in regard to calculation and assignment of ERUs may file an appeal in writing to the Service Director. The appeal must be filed in writing, must describe the specific error alleged and contain reasoning from the appealing party that justifies the appealed issue. The Service Director may request additional information from the appealing party. If you would like to file an appeal, fill out an ERU Appeal Form and mail it to: City of Brunswick, ATTN: Service Director, 1238 W. 130th Street, Brunswick, OH 44212.