

Storm Water Utility Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the purpose of the Storm Water Utility and what will the money be used for?

A. The storm drain utility was established to reconstruct, repair, upgrade and maintain storm drain structures (pipes, curbs and gutters, inlet boxes and etc), that were aging faster than current revenues and projects could reconstruct or repair. When we became a city, many of the storm water systems were 40 years old or more. Over the past several years we have experienced some failures and sink holes in roads.

Q. Will the fee be used for anything else besides storm water improvements?

A. No, it can only be used for costs associated with storm water projects and maintenance.

Q. Our subdivision is not hooked up to the storm drain. Why should I pay the fee if I don't use it?

A. Your property may not be physically connected to the drainage system in the same manner as water or sewer, but you and your property are still provided service. How? The City's storm water program improves and maintains those upstream storm water facilities that protect your property; they establish design criteria/regulate development that helps control off site storm water problems; the program is taking steps to reduce storm water pollutants that degrade our culinary water quality and environment in Taylorsville City. Every property and person in Taylorsville City is served by these activities.

All residences benefit from the infrastructure maintained by Taylorsville City. Residences rely on roads and facilities which are maintained by the City. Impervious areas contribute to the storm drainage system. Even those systems which use sumps to infiltrate the storm water into the ground contribute to the shallow aquifer which likely ends up as part of the storm drainage system.

Q. What is the service charge based on? What is an ERU? How was the ERU assessed?

A. The non-residential service charge is based on the amount of impervious area (rooftops, concrete and asphalt) within a property. Impervious area is the best indicator of how much you use the storm water system. Single-family homes provide the basis for the rate in that the average amount of impervious area on a single-family residence is 3,800 square feet or 1 equivalent residential unit (ERU). All non single-

family parcels pay a multiple of this base rate according to their measured impervious area.

Q. Who authorized this fee? Why didn't we get to vote on it? When was the fee adopted?

A. The City Council voted on the Storm Drain Utility and adopted the fee structure on May 16, 2007. This action followed several public meetings where the topic was debated and discussed over two budget years. The Storm Drain Utility was adopted in two fiscal year budgets 2006-2007, and 2007-2008.

Q. Is there an appeal process? Some senior citizens can't afford another bill on their limited budgets. (Most don't want to use the request for relief as being embarrassing and had not requested the relief on their property taxes). Can the City offer some assistance in this matter?

A. The provisions of Ordinance 07-19, provide that "... any person or entity who is aggrieved by the provision of this chapter or the application and calculation of the service charge to their property may appeal to the City Administrator. The appeal shall be in writing and shall state all facts supporting the appeal and shall be made within thirty 30 days of the receipt of the bill or event giving rise to the appeal. The City Administrator shall issue a written decision within thirty 30 days of receipt of the complete appeal. Appeals of the City Administrator's decision may be made to the Mayor within thirty 30 days of the City administrator's decision. The Mayor may elect to hold a hearing on the appeal.

Q. Was there a public meeting?

A. Yes, the storm water utility was presented and discussed in several public meetings:

- The City Council in a public meeting budgeted funds for the City to move forward with a study for the creation of a Storm Water Utility.
- The Storm Water Utility Fee was adopted by the City Council in a public meeting in June 2006.
- Information concerning the Storm Water Utility was presented in a City Council Public Work Session on May 2, 2007.
- The Storm Water Ordinance was adopted by the City Council in public meeting on May 16, 2007.

Q. Is this a fee, or is it a tax?

A. It is a fee.

Q. We just had our taxes raised. Why is this new fee being imposed on residents and businesses?

A. The Storm Drain Utility was adopted as part of the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget at the same time property taxes were increased by 15%, the first tax rate increase in ten years. At that time, the City was looking for options to take care of the aging infrastructure and adopted an approach that balanced the sources of revenue. By adopting the Storm Drain Utility fee, the responsibility to reconstruct and maintain the storm drain system more fairly falls to all property owners who contribute storm water to the storm drain system, including property tax exempt properties.

Q. How long will this fee be in place?

A. The Ordinance establishing this utility and the fee does not have a sunset provision. The estimate of our consulting engineer of the anticipated costs of needed improvements to our storm drain system is \$8,000,000.00. The City currently has budgeted \$5,484,311.00. It is anticipated that the payment on the construction bonds for this amount will take several years, however, the second component of the fee is the on-going maintenance of the storm drain system which includes cleaning and maintenance of the large storm drain pipe, to vacuuming out the intake boxes more frequently, to increasing the frequency of sweeping the streets to meet EPA regulations.

Q. Can this fee be incorporated into my tax bill or water/sewer bill?

A. The Storm Drain Utility is operated by the City of Taylorsville, and the Water and Sewer Utility is operated by a Special Service District, the Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District. The City approached the District several months ago to contract with the district to include this fee with the invoices they routinely send out, but was declined.

Q. Can I pay this bill on-line?

A. Yes, with no charge. Just go to WWW.Taylorsvilleut.gov and click on the button that says pay online.

Q. Can the invoices be sent to the HOA instead of the Condominium owners?

A. The utility was set up using the Salt Lake County property parcels, and invoices are sent to each homeowner. There is a possibility that HOAs may take the responsibility for this fee.

Q. Who do I talk to about the drain problems in my area? Will this project correct our problems?

A. The storm drain utility service fees will be used to address storm drain problems within Taylorsville. A priority list and projects will be generated from the Storm Drain Master Plan. If you are concerned your area will not be addressed with these projects, please contact Taylorsville City Engineer, John Taylor, to discuss the issue; he can be reached at (801) 963-5400. Everything will be done to address your issue the quickest and most economical way.

Q. Can I pay a year at a time?

A. Yes, many citizens have already paid their fee for the year.

Q. What will happen if I refuse to pay this?

A. As much as the City would regret pursuing any action against property owners who refuse to pay, the options available to the City may include collection efforts, small claims or certifying the fee against the property.

Q. How can I change my name and/or mailing address?

A. Please send a request in writing for name change or mailing address to:

City of Taylorsville
Attention: Storm Drain Administrator
2600 West Taylorsville Boulevard
Taylorsville, Utah 84118