

What Can I Do to Help Protect Our Water Resources?

There are many things that we can all do on a daily basis to protect our water resources. The City has pamphlets that discuss what you can do at home for water conservation and pollution prevention. One of the most important things you can do to protect our local water resources is don't put anything down a stormdrain that you wouldn't swim in or drink.

How Do I Obtain More Information?

For more information about the City of Snellville Stormwater Management Program, please contact Gaye Johnson, Public Works Director, at (770) 985-3527 or visit the City's website at www.snellville.org for the actual stormwater ordinance. A Public Hearing is scheduled for March 10, 2008 and citizens are encouraged to attend for any questions they may have.



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CITY OF SNELLVILLE'S

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Protecting Our Water Resources

Management of stormwater runoff has become an increasingly important responsibility for local governments. Recently enacted stormwater regulations, combined with aging drainage infrastructure, has resulted in local governments like Snellville developing and implementing more comprehensive stormwater management programs to achieve regulatory compliance and address recurring drainage system problems.

Over time, stormwater structures such as pipes and catch basins can become clogged and/or damaged, lessening their ability to carry stormwater runoff. When it rains in Snellville, pipes frequently overflow into streets and inundate existing drainage system components. To solve these problems and comply with stormwater regulations, the City of Snellville is developing a comprehensive stormwater management program, and setting up a stormwater utility that will be funded primarily by a stormwater user fee system.

Stormwater Regulations

Stormwater management regulations have been established by the State and Federal government to address stormwater runoff and water quality issues. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) regulates the discharge of pollutants in stormwater through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater discharge permits and the requirements of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (the District).

The City of Snellville must comply with their NPDES stormwater permit and the requirements of the District, which mandate certain activities be implemented to reduce the discharge of stormwater pollution to local streams, creeks and lakes. In addition, the City has a backlog of \$2 million in infrastructure improvement projects that need to be completed. The stormwater utility will provide the needed funding for construction of these projects.

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is the water that flows over rooftops, sidewalks, parking lots, streets, driveways, yards, patios and other surfaces when it rains. The water then flows into gutters, storm sewers and

drainage ditches that empty into our local creeks and streams.

Impervious areas (the areas that cannot absorb rain fall – rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, etc.) are the single most important factor influencing stormwater runoff. Development replaces natural ground surfaces with impervious surfaces, causing more stormwater to run off the land rather than soaking into the soil, resulting in increased stream flows and velocities. Impervious areas can also promote a buildup of pollution that is eventually carried into our streams via stormwater runoff.



What is a Stormwater User Fee?

Over 600 stormwater utilities and user fee systems have been formed throughout the United States. In Georgia there are approximately 30 stormwater utilities, including the Gwinnett County stormwater utility. Several communities in Georgia have determined that a stormwater utility funded by user fees is the most fair, stable and equitable way to fund a local stormwater management program.

The City has preliminarily established that each residential customer would pay a flat rate user fee based on an average impervious area for the parcel. Each non-residential customer's user fee would be based on the total amount of impervious area on the parcel. Additionally, customers would have the opportunity to receive credits on their bill for actions on their parcel that lessen the impact of stormwater runoff on the City's drainage system. It is anticipated that the first stormwater utility bills will be issued in the later part of 2008.

How Will the Funds Be Utilized?

Funds collected from the stormwater user fee will be utilized for stormwater management related projects and regulatory compliance programs. The stormwater user fee system will provide dedicated funding, enabling the City to build new stormwater facilities, improve maintenance of existing systems, and provide an enhanced level of service focused on minimizing flooding and reducing water pollution.

In addition, the City will continue to utilize other funding sources such as SPLOST, plan review fees, and land disturbance permit fees to supplement the stormwater utility fee revenue that is generated.