Stormwater Assessment Fee FAQ's

What Does the Stormwater Fee Pay For?

The stormwater utility fee establishes a stable and dedicated source of funding to ensure that the City continues to meet state and federal regulatory requirements. The stormwater utility fee also enables the City to continue to operate and maintain all its stormwater infrastructure, while continuing to pursue capital improvement projects that improve water quality, reduce flooding, and repair and replace aging infrastructure.

How Do I Pay This Fee?

The stormwater utility fee has been added to the Pinellas County property tax bill as an additional line item, as a Non-Ad Valorem Assessment. Once your property taxes are paid, your stormwater utility fee will also be paid. Please note that the early payment reduction option also applies to the stormwater utility fee.

How Does Our Rate Compare to Other Cities?

The City's stormwater utility fee is \$140.00 per ERU, which is nearly \$23.00 below the average rate charged by neighboring Cities.

Who Else Has a Stormwater Fee in Pinellas County?

The majority of the Cities within Pinellas County have a stormwater fee, only a few do not. Pinellas County also has a stormwater fee.

Why Can't We Just Ask for Additional State and/or Federal Funds?

The City has actively sought, and will continue to seek, grants to support stormwater projects. Given the highly competitive nature of funding opportunities at both the state and federal levels, an environment that has become increasingly competitive in recent years, the stormwater utility fee serves as a reliable and dedicated source of funding. This fee complements and enhances the financial resources obtained through grants awarded by state and federal agencies.

Are There any Exemptions?

Properties that are undeveloped or commercial properties with less than 400 square feet of impervious area are exempt from the stormwater utility fee.

What is Impervious Area (IA)?

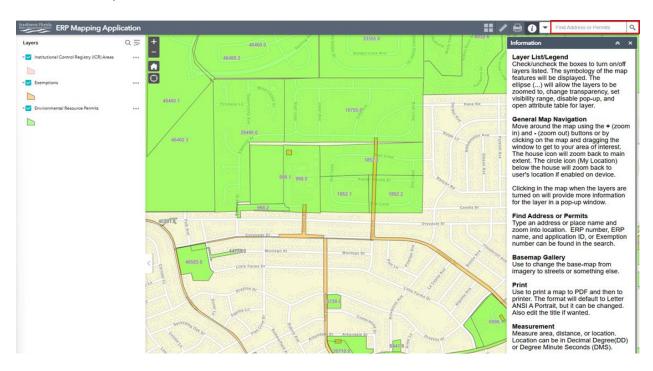
Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, rooftops, sidewalks, walkways, patio areas, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, and other artificial or non-natural surfaces which affect the entry of waters natural infiltration or runoff patterns which existed prior to development.

Is There a Credit Program, and How Does the Credit System Work?

Currently, only 50% of the incorporated municipalities within Pinellas County that implement a stormwater utility fee offer a credit program. The City aims to provide an opportunity for a reduction of up to 50% in the stormwater utility fee for property owners who alleviate the burden on the City's stormwater infrastructure by owning and maintaining their own stormwater management systems. The whole credit program and the application can be found here: Stormwater Utility Assessment Mitigation Credit Policy.

Does My Pond Have a Permit?

If you go to the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD) <u>ERP Mapping Application</u>, you can search for your address by entering it into the white box on the top left and selecting the search icon, or you can find your address on the map by manually moving around the map.







Multiple records may be associated with your property that you may need to navigate through. Use the arrow icon(s) to navigate through the records, if necessary. Use the grey bar on the right of the white box to scroll. If there are multiple records, they might not all represent an approved permit. Make sure that you are reviewing a record that has an "Approved" status. Then select the "More Info" WMIS Hyperlink. This will open the Water Management Information System Portal.



This portal may provide access to the following items required for your application: Permit Number, Inspection / Maintenance Reports, and Designs / As-Builts. The permit number will be at the top of the page.



Navigating to the "Documents" tab will enable you to continue your search for the Inspection / Maintenance Reports and Designs / As-Builts. This particular example contains both "Submitted Asbuilt Plans" and "Plans." Download all PDFs relating to Inspection / Maintenance Reports and Designs / As-Builts and include them with your application.

