



Stormwater Management Utility

Town of Hillsborough Information Sheet

The Town of Hillsborough created a stormwater utility and fee — effective July 1, 2016 — to comply with expanding state and federal stormwater regulations to reduce stormwater runoff pollution from reaching the Eno River.

The regulations are unfunded mandates, which the town previously paid for through collected property taxes. By charging a fee instead of raising taxes, all properties within the town limits now share in the cost to protect our water bodies, including tax-exempt properties, such as schools, churches and government buildings. Fees collected through the utility must be spent on the town's stormwater program.

The Stormwater Management Program's primary purpose is to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff pollution from reaching local waterbodies, including the Eno River. Pollution from stormwater runoff adversely affects aquatic ecosystems, poses human health risks, and can greatly increase the cost of treating drinking water.

As we add impervious surface — like rooftops, parking lots and streets — we decrease the amount of stormwater that soaks into the ground. This increases the amount and velocity of stormwater runoff, which can cause accelerated erosion and downstream flooding. As stormwater flows across impervious surfaces, it picks up various pollutants, including excess nutrients, oil, grease, bacteria and sediment. Polluted stormwater flows down storm drains and ditches, where it is discharged — untreated — into local streams, rivers and lakes.



The Eno River along the Riverwalk greenway — this is what the stormwater management utility strives to protect.

Stormwater Management Utility Fees

Residential Properties	\$75 annually
Tier 1, Non-residential Properties (0 to 10,000 square feet)	\$150 annually
Tier 2, Non-residential Properties (10,001 to 30,000 square feet)	\$600 annually
Tier 3, Non-residential Properties (30,000 to 100,000 square feet)	\$1,800 annually
Tier 4, Non-residential Properties (100,001 to 200,000 square feet)	\$4,050 annually
Tier 5, Non-residential Properties (200,001 square feet and above)	\$12,900 annually

What Services Do Stormwater Utility Fees Provide?

The utility fees fund the stormwater program, which provides valuable services to the town and its residents.

These services include:

- Assisting residents with drainage and stormwater runoff concerns.
- Providing environmental and stormwater educational programs to schools and civic groups.
- Maintaining stormwater drainage within town-owned streets and facilities.
- Reviewing new development proposals to ensure compliance with stormwater requirements.
- Maintaining compliance with state and federal stormwater regulations.
- Implementing a stream buffer program to protect our streams.
- Managing the stormwater utility.

For a more comprehensive list, see the directory of services at www.hillsboroughnc.gov/stormwater



Town Public Works employees operate heavy equipment to dig out a portion of a stormwater drainage system. Hand shovels and rakes also are used to fine-tune the work.



Stormwater Program Coordinator Heather Fisher teaches participants of the local Earth Evening fair about stormwater runoff pollution.



It costs more money to clean up stormwater runoff pollution than it does to prevent it!

Stormwater and Environmental Services Division

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