



Clean Water Atlanta Hotline
404-529-9211

City of Atlanta

Shirley Franklin
Mayor

Cathy Woolard
Council President

Ceasar C. Mitchell

Mary Norwood

H. Lamar Willis

Carla Smith

Debi Starnes

Ivory Lee Young, Jr.

Cleta Winslow

Natalyn Mosby Archibong

Anne Fauver

Charles Howard Shook

Clair Muller

Felicia Moore

C.T. Martin

Jim Maddox

Derrick Boazman



The City of Atlanta is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to address water pollution associated with stormwater runoff in the City. It is a fact that stormwater runoff is a major contributor of pollutants to the many creeks and rivers in the metro area. In addition to pollution control requirements, the City faces significant improvements for flood controls.

The City intends to create a stormwater management utility and establish a stormwater utility fee to pay for the City's share of costs for stormwater pollution prevention and flood control projects. Stormwater related pollution abatement programs are estimated to cost greater than \$300 million in the next few years.

As part of this program the City will initiate programs to monitor stormwater for pollutants, improve stormwater system maintenance, and provide educational activities to individuals, businesses and agencies impacting stormwater.

The City must adopt a Stormwater Ordinance establishing standards for keeping stormwater clean. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for specific areas such as residential, retail, industrial, and construction activities will be studied, developed, and implemented. In combination, these programs will reduce stormwater pollution. These activities support the goal of the City to minimize the pollutants from the City storm drain system entering the Chattahoochee and Ocmulgee River Basins.

Anticipated Services of the Stormwater Utility include, but are not limited to the following:

- NPDES Compliance
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control
- Street Sweeping
- Streambank Stabilization
- Water Quality Improvements
- Maintenance of Drainage Infrastructure
- Flooding Mitigation
- Capital Improvements
- Engineering
- Floodplain acquisition

The stormwater utility will provide a dedicated revenue source for stormwater management. The stormwater utility will operate similarly to water or sewer charges which are funded through service fees and administered separately from the general fund ensuring stable and adequate support for these public services.

To develop the stormwater utility, the City of Atlanta will be implementing the necessary steps to make certain that the utility is executed by January 2004.

Stormwater Utilities in Other Cities

Town	Year Established	Services	Basis of Fee	Fee	Revenue
Takoma Park, MD	1996	Construction and maintenance of storm drainage system Review of stormwater management plans Inspection and enforcement Watershed planning Water quality monitoring	Impervious surface (Hard surface)	Single family \$24/year Nonresidential based on impervious area Multifamily based on impervious area Public, state, county, and city property exempt	\$183,000/1999
Boulder, CO	1973	Public education Detection of illicit connections and dumping Water quality monitoring Routine maintenance	Property area	Residential <15,000 sq/ft \$4.40/monthly Residential 15,000 - 30,000 sq/ft \$5.50/monthly Properties >30,000 sq/ft \$6.60/monthly Commercial based on impervious/pervious area Undeveloped parcels are exempt Impervious surface/total square footage	\$5.4 M/1996
Bellevue, WA	1974	Flood control Water quality monitoring Public education Routine maintenance	Impervious surface		\$7 M/1990
Ann Arbor, MI	1984	Detecting illicit connections Water quality monitoring Chemical storage surveys Public education Complaint and spill response System maintenance	Hydrologic acreage	Single/Two-family house \$3.83/month Commercial/Industrial rate per acre \$41/month Public lands for recreation and streets are exempt	
Cincinnati, OH	1985	Flood protection City regional master plan Capital improvements Routine maintenance	Equivalent runoff unit	Single/Two-family house > 10,000 sq/ft #26.52/yearly Single/Two-family house > 10,000 sq/ft \$37.13/yearly Other property \$2.21/ERU	\$6.8 M/1998
Austin, TX	1982	Erosion control Flood control Improving water quality Routine maintenance	Residential/average acreage Commercial/developed acre	Residential \$4.95/month Commercial \$48.00/month State, county, and school districts are exempt	\$15 M/1998
Louisville, KY	1987	Routine maintenance Citizen requests Cleaning catch basins Mowing and cleaning ditches Repairing pipes and culverts Flood protection Developing design manual for elimination of flood/drainage problems Water quality monitoring	Commercial/Industrial/Institutional = Front footage/2,500 sq/ft Termed Existing Service Unit (ESU)	Residential #3.15/month Each ESU is \$3.00	\$16.2 M/1998
Decatur, GA	1999	Water quality Flood control Master planning Routine maintenance Design of stormwater projects	Equivalent runoff unit	Residential \$5.00/month per 2,900 sq/ft impervious area Other based on impervious cover Undeveloped parcels and state highways exempt	\$750,000/2001
Griffin, GA	1996	Flood control Maintenance Master planning Regional detention Design	Equivalent runoff unit Flat fee for single-family	Residential #3.50/month Other based on impervious cover	\$1.5 M/2001