

HAVE STORMWATER ACTIVITIES BEGUN?

Stormwater fees are used for flood control and to improve water quality in lakes and streams.

The flood control improvements will reduce threats to people, structures and real estate, reduce street flooding, and stabilize drainage channels to reduce erosion. Approximately \$50 million worth of construction has been identified. As stormwater facilities deteriorate over time, they become less effective in conveying stormwater. A maintenance program was developed to extend the life of the facilities and to replace them when needed.

Several programs were implemented that are designed to reduce the potential for pollution to our streams and creeks, and to begin improving water quality in those water bodies. Litter control, proper disposal of pet waste, cleanup of illegal discharges, and identification of illegal connections to the storm sewer system are just a few of these programs.

CAN THE IMPERVIOUS AREA BE APPEALED?

If you believe that the amount of impervious area calculated for your property is in error, call the number below with the corrected impervious area for staff review, verification, and/or adjustment. Note that although the Ordinance allows for the property owner to appeal the calculation, the existence of the Stormwater Utility fee cannot be appealed.

If you have additional questions,

CALL 720.898.7810

Or <http://www.arvada.org>

WHAT CAN WE DO TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS?

Dispose of or recycle hazardous materials properly. Only stormwater should be allowed to flow down storm sewers. Even "biodegradable" substances can harm waterways. (Call the number provided below for more information on where to properly dispose of household chemical waste.)

Keep our neighborhood and business areas clean by not littering and by picking up litter.

Pick-up and dispose of pet waste properly. This activity significantly reduces bacteria levels found in Arvada's waterways after storms.



City of Arvada
Stormwater Division

8101 Ralston Road
Arvada, CO 80001-8101
Phone 720.898.7810
Fax 720.898.7603

ARVADA'S STORMWATER UTILITY



2010 UPDATE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Since January 2002, residents and businesses in the City limits of Arvada have been required to pay a Stormwater Utility fee. This fee was added to water/wastewater bills, or billed separately for those who are not receiving an Arvada water/wastewater bill. Like the water/wastewater utility fees that are only used to provide drinking water and wastewater services, so this fee will be used only for the City's stormwater needs.

Regulations were enacted by the Environmental Protection Agency and State of Colorado that require cities to obtain a Stormwater Permit. The City's Stormwater Utility will fund the necessary programs under the Stormwater Permit to address or clean-up potential pollution before stormwater carries it to streams thus improving the quality of water in area lakes and streams. In addition, the Stormwater Utility will fund 33 flood control projects and the maintenance of the City's storm sewer system. Arvada is one of 18 other front range cities that have established a Stormwater Utility to address these needs.

WHO MUST PAY?

All developed properties within the city limits of Arvada are charged a Stormwater Utility fee. Undeveloped lots or properties without impervious surfaces are excluded from the Stormwater Utility fee.

WHO APPROVED THIS FEE?

After over a year of study, research and public outreach, and after much deliberation on the matter, the Arvada City Council unanimously approved the Stormwater Utility fee on June 18th, 2001.

The study and research included a citywide assessment of needed flood control projects and the impending permit requirements outlined in federal and state regulations. Then a citizen task force worked with a consulting firm to identify the most equitable method to fund these efforts.

Public outreach was conducted between June 2000 and June 2001. Examples of outreach efforts included articles in the Arvada Report and Arvada Sentinel; mass mailings to churches, Chamber of Commerce members, and homeowner's associations; presentations to civic groups; meetings with large property holders; public meetings at the Arvada Center that were advertised in all major grocery stores; and a month-long segment on Channel 8, KATV, the government access channel.

WHY ARVADA CHOSE TO CHARGE THIS FEE?

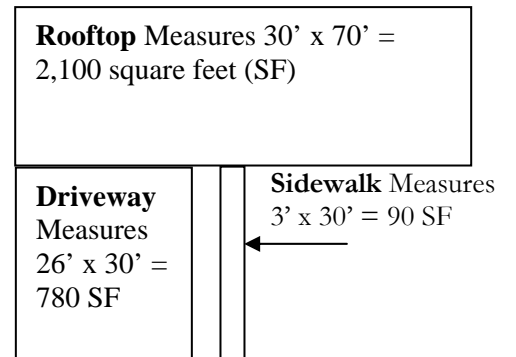
As a result of the Stormwater Permit obtained from the State on March 10, 2003, certain programs are required to be implemented. The Stormwater Utility Fee makes those programs possible. Should Arvada not comply with the Stormwater Permit, the State is authorized to levy fines against the City up to \$25,000 per day.

HOW ARE FEES CALCULATED?

All Arvada properties are being charged a fee at the rate of \$0.00149 per square foot of impervious area per month. Impervious area is that portion of the property that does not absorb rainwater (ie. concrete, asphalt, and rooftops) producing stormwater or adding to the shallow ground water. The amount of impervious area on each property was determined using aerial photography.

To estimate the bimonthly stormwater utility fee, multiply the length and width of each impervious area, such as the rooftop, driveway and sidewalk, add them together and multiply the total area by \$0.00298 (\$0.00149 x 2).

For example:



Rooftop = 2,100 SF
 Driveway = 780 SF
 Sidewalk = 90 SF
Total Square ft = 2,970 SF

2,970 Total SF x a rate of \$0.00298 per SF
 = \$8.85 per billing