

Welcome to Carrboro's Stormwater Utility



Our Mission

Our core stormwater management goals are to

- Reduce impacts to our creeks and downstream waterbodies, including Jordan Lake; protect and restore our watersheds
- Mitigate flooding
- Sustainably manage the Town's stormwater infrastructure
- Achieve, and exceed where possible, Town and State performance standards



Our Services

With your support, we

- Maintain a stormwater conveyance system
- Protect and restore streams
- Comply with State and Federal stormwater regulatory requirements
- Reach out and collaborate with community partners
- Regulate stormwater runoff from new development





To deliver these services,
it takes

- A comprehensive and adequately staffed stormwater management program
- Sufficient and dedicated funding
- Community awareness, participation, and support



Why did the Town adopt a stormwater fee?



Stormwater Management Needs

- Carrboro's stormwater system requires maintenance
- Community members need support with drainage and flooding problems
- The Town needs to address State/Federal regulatory requirements

Equity and Fairness

- Until now, the stormwater program has been funded without consideration of a property's contribution to runoff and pollution.
- Property owners will pay based on their impervious area, a metric that accounts for contribution to stormwater management needs.

Other Benefits

- It creates future possibilities such as fee reduction opportunities, technical assistance, and potentially financial assistance to help with implementing stormwater management practices
- A stormwater fee is a recognized Best Practice; about 100 jurisdictions in NC have one



What is “impervious area”?

Impervious areas include pavement, buildings and other areas that restrict stormwater from being absorbed into the ground, thus increasing runoff.

What is an ERU ?

The stormwater fee will be based on the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). One ERU is equivalent to 3,000 sq. ft. of impervious area. This represents the average impervious area of all single family residential parcels in Carrboro.



Stormwater Utility Fee

The stormwater fee appears on property tax bills. Each parcel's fee depends upon the amount of impervious area. The current/proposed rates are summarized below.



Residential (< 6000 sf impervious area).....	\$90/\$100
(> 6000 sf impervious area).....	\$180/\$200
Non-residential:	
Tier 1 (1 ERU).....	\$90/\$100
Tier 2 (5 ERUs).....	\$450/\$500
Tier 3 (11 ERUs)	\$990/\$1100
Tier 4 (17 ERUs)	\$1530/\$1700
Tier 5 (25 ERUs)	\$2250/\$2500
Additional Tiers (+10 ERUs)*add \$1000 from the immediately adjacent lower tier	



What is a “non-residential” property?

Non-residential properties include all non-exempt properties that are not single family residential. This includes, but is not limited to, commercial, industrial, institutional properties, and unsubdivided multifamily residential complexes.

How is the proposed fee determined for non-residential parcels?

Every non-residential parcel is assigned to a tier based on the number of ERUs of impervious area. (For condominium properties, the tiers are assigned by equally proportioning the total impervious area to each condo owner.)



What is the revenue collected from the fees being used for?



About 70% of the revenue is being used and will continue to be used for the ongoing operations of the stormwater program. About 30% of the budget will allow for future capital improvements, or larger projects that enhance and improve infrastructure, better manage runoff, and protect and restore streams and downstream waters. The fee increase is specifically proposed to fund one new Stormwater staff position and funds for a new residential assistance cost sharing program.

