

Q. How will the City calculate my non-residential bill?

- A.** The non-residential fee will be based on the impervious area on the entire parcel and may be allocated to several utility accounts depending upon how the property is used by different customers on the property. The impervious area for each parcel was measured in square feet (SF) and was taken from 2011 aerial photography and/or site plans provided to the City with the building permit application.



Q. What should I do if I think that my fee is not calculated correctly?

- A.** The residential fee will be a flat rate for each dwelling unit, or ERU, and can not be adjusted; however, the number of dwelling units on a parcel can be reviewed. Non-residential fee calculations can be reviewed for accuracy by the Director of Public Works. A customer can provide to the City additional information about impervious area or the number of dwelling units from land surveys or other documentation.

Q. Why will the fee be added to the water bill?

- A.** Texarkana Water Utility's utility billing system currently bills all the fees for utility services provided to customers of the City, including water, sewer, and refuse (trash) collection

services. The stormwater (drainage) fee will be added to this bill as a separate charge. The funds collected from the fee will be accounted for in a Stormwater Utility fund that is separate from other City revenues.

Q. What will utility customers receive for their monthly fee?

- A.** This fee will enable the City of Texarkana, TX to comply with mandated programs required to meet federal and state environmental laws and to fund stormwater construction projects and operation and maintenance expenses, which will help alleviate present flooding situations and address problems that cause a negative impact on the water quality in the streams and lakes in the area.



Q. When will the Stormwater Utility fee go into effect?

- A.** If the Stormwater Utility is approved at the **January 23rd, 2012** public hearing, the Stormwater Utility fee will be placed on utility bills after **July 1st, 2012**.

The Stormwater Utility fee is expected to be needed for many years into the future. The stormwater fee will support the varied activities of the Stormwater Utility and may be reviewed with the budgeting process each year.



Stormwater Utility Public Hearing

For more information:

Website:

www.ci.texarkana.tx.us

Stormwater Information Phone Line:

(903) 798-3930

In 1989, after larger cities in the State of Texas started having to fund numerous activities to meet Federal and State water quality regulations, the State Legislature authorized local governments to create a Stormwater Utility System dedicated to the management of its stormwater (drainage and water quality) facilities and activities. The legislation also allowed for the levying of a dedicated fee to fund the utility.



The State water quality management program is now requiring cities, like the City of Texarkana, TX to monitor and test water quality throughout the City. Texarkana will also be required to begin inspecting properties for compliance with water quality management permits and to include best management practices for each facility and new construction project.

Additionally, the City has also identified numerous existing drainage systems throughout the City that do not function properly during heavy rainfall with regard to draining excess stormwater runoff safely and effectively. Thus, the management of stormwater runoff is of paramount concern to the City Council. However, additional funds are needed to address these issues.

On **January 23rd, 2012**, the City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider establishment of a Stormwater Utility System. If approved, the Utility will include a monthly fee for developed properties. The ordinances governing the Stormwater Utility will be published in the Texarkana Gazette beginning **December 22nd, 2011**.

The revenue from the Stormwater Utility can **only** be spent on stormwater related activities and will provide a funding source for much needed maintenance, repair, and construction of stormwater facilities.

Additionally, the City must immediately begin performing several activities required by its permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) related to improving the quality of the water in streams and lakes.

Q. Will the proposed projects solve all of the drainage and water quality problems within Texarkana?

- A.** The City Council is concerned about all of the stormwater problems; however, the City cannot afford to immediately fund repairs for all the known problems. Priorities for the Stormwater Utility funds will be established by the City Council; and the timing for the start of individual projects will be based on revenues collected and other factors that must be considered.



Q. Who pays the Stormwater Utility fee?

- A.** The fee is applicable to **developed** properties within the City limits and will be included with the water, sewer, and refuse (trash) bill. If the owner of a property normally pays for utility services on a property, the stormwater fee will be sent to the owner for payment. If an occupant, or tenant, of the property is responsible for payment of utilities, the City considers the occupant or tenant to be responsible for payment of the stormwater fee. However,

the owner will be expected to pay the stormwater fee if the property has been vacated by a tenant.



Q. How much is the Stormwater Utility fee?

- A.** The monthly stormwater fee will be the same for all residential dwelling units, also known as an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). The fee for non-residential properties (including commercial, industrial, institutional, governmental, and multi-family properties) will be calculated individually in proportion to each property's stormwater runoff potential or impervious area.

For FY2012, the proposed residential fee will be \$6.00 per month for each dwelling unit or ERU that is located on a property. The stormwater fee for non-residential properties will be calculated individually and based on the specific amount of impervious coverage on the property compared to an ERU.

Impervious coverage is a surface (such as a building, or concrete, asphalt and compacted soil parking areas, driveways and storage areas) that is not covered by a natural vegetative surface and does not allow the soil to readily absorb water without erosion during rainfall events.

Both the flat residential ERU fee and individual non-residential fee for FY2012 are based on a charge of \$2.07 per 1,000 square foot (SF) of impervious area.