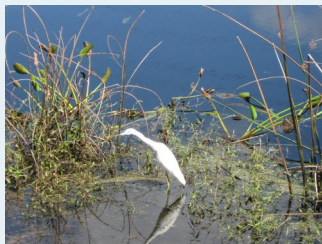


Our Waterways, Our Livelihoods, Our Children's Future

If you are experiencing the scenic Sponge Docks, “catching some rays” at Sunset Beach or just observing wildlife in a local pond, you’ll want to be proud of, and protect our beautiful and abundant natural resource; the Florida Gulf Coast Waterways.

Residents have a direct interest in the quality of our waterways, in that they offer an abundance of recreation activities. Activities such as swimming, fishing and boating are just a few activities which we enjoy year round. As a visitor to our area, you are undoubtedly amazed by the beauty of our surrounding waterways, from the recreational uses available, to something as simple as a sunset. With all the benefits listed above, local businesses are ecstatic to have the opportunity to have such an amazing area in which to call their own. Not only for themselves, but for their customers, clients, and guest's alike. Let's all respect and enjoy this together.



Egret enjoying a local pond



Sunset Beach

**Let Only Rain,
Go Down the Stormdrain**

City of Tarpon Springs

324 E. Pine Street
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689

Phone: 727-942-5606

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City of Tarpon Springs Public Works

Stormwater Utility



City of Tarpon Springs
Stormwater Ddivision

Meeting Federally Mandated Stormwater Requirements the City of Tarpon Springs

The City has been required to update its existing Stormwater Ordinance enabling the collection of user charges to fund an expanded Stormwater Management Program. The collected revenue will allow the City to meet federally mandated stormwater management requirements, provide continued operation and maintenance activities, and address existing stormwater problems with new capital projects.

The City's Stormwater Management Program addresses both flooding and water quality issues. The primary functions of the stormwater maintenance section have been the restoration of the City's aging stormwater infrastructure, the Street Sweeping Program, and removal of sedimentation and trash from retention ponds and drainage swales. Sedimentation removal helps the performance of retention areas in the recharge of ground water through natural percolation, and can reduce localized flooding in downstream areas.

Under the directive of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NPDES permit conditions, the City of Tarpon Springs adheres to maintenance guidelines, which are imposed to maintain water quality within lakes, streams and rivers.

A publicly advertised Community Forum was held at City Hall on October 24, 2001 to discuss the expanded Stormwater Program and obtain input from customers. The input received from the meeting was utilized in finalizing the program.

The City of Tarpon Springs' stormwater user charges fund updated stormwater system operations, maintenance, and construction costs and appropriate those costs based on individual stormwater contribution. The rates are based on a rate study conducted by engineering consultant Parsons Engineering Science.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that cannot be absorbed by the soil during a storm event. In Florida, it is estimated that rain falling on a hard surface can generate almost 50" of runoff during the year.

What is the purpose of the stormwater user charge?

The stormwater user charge is used to pay for expenditures in capital projects and the operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities as a part of the Stormwater Management Program. Some examples of what the funds pay for include the repair or replacement of damaged drainage culverts and structures, the City's Street Sweeping Program, and the maintenance and re-grading of retention ponds and drainage swales. The assessment also pays for periodic adjustments to manholes and inlets where surrounding soils have subsided. Many of these programs are a result of Federal and State regulations.

What benefits does the program provide to property owners in Tarpon Springs?

The Program addresses both flooding problems and water quality issues. It includes the maintenance, repair and replacement of the existing stormwater system. These activities improve the drainage system's ability to function as it was originally designed during future storm events. The program also serves to protect water quality in the waters surrounding the City.

Who pays this user charge?

A stormwater management fee is imposed on all developed property within the City for services and facilities provided by the stormwater management system.

How much is the stormwater user charge?

Developed property within the City is divided into two rate classes: **residential properties** and **general properties**. Fees are computed as follows:

FAQ's (Continued)

Residential property, including single family homes, manufactured homes, mobile homes and condominiums are charged a flat fee, computed as one (1.0) ESU per unit.

General properties are non-residential properties, including but not limited to apartment buildings, commercial and institutional properties. General properties are analyzed to determine the amount of square feet of impervious surface area on each parcel subject to the fee and the following formula is used to determine the specific stormwater management utility fee for each individual parcel.

Number of ESU's = Impervious Area
(square feet) divided by 1,945
Square feet. The resulting calculation
In ESU's or portions of ESU's is then
Multiplied by the ESU rate.

The fee for general properties is subject to adjustment from time to time in the event more impervious surface is added to the parcel.

Who is eligible for a credit?

Credits, in the form of bill reductions, are available for properties that have privately owned and maintained stormwater facilities meeting specific requirements outlined in the Stormwater Ordinance. If you have an ownership interest in such a property, contact the Streets & Stormwater Division at the number listed in this brochure for additional information.

How is the stormwater user fee billed?

The fee is billed monthly and included with the current City utility bill.



Whether stormwater in your neighborhood drains to a ditch, pond, bayou or river, it eventually enters the Gulf of Mexico. All these areas are affected by what goes down your storm drain.