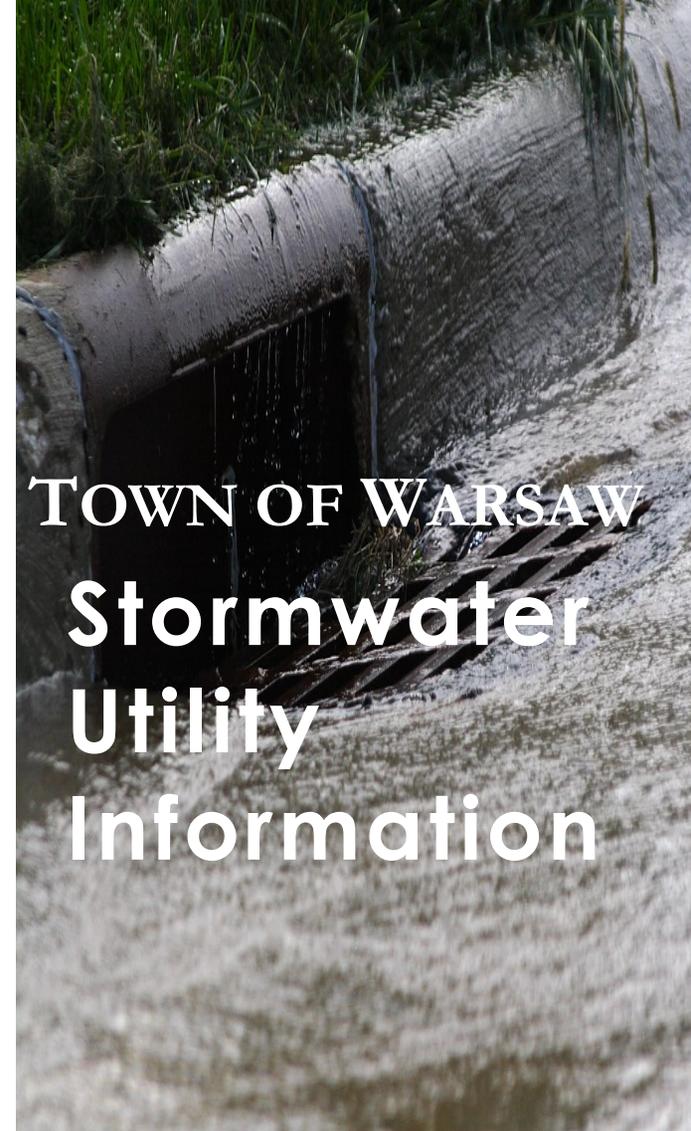


What does the Stormwater Fee fund?

- Capital improvements, which include major improvements to Town Drainage Right-of-Way systems, including culvert replacements.
- The maintenance, cleaning, and repair of existing Town Drainage infrastructure.
- Operational Costs.
- Engineering and design work for stormwater projects.
- Debt Service for stormwater projects.

The Town welcomes calls from the public notifying us of problem storm drains and encourages citizens to help by keeping storm drains near their homes and businesses clear of debris.

For service requests or questions on Town maintained drainage areas, please contact the Warsaw Public Works Department at (910) 293-4660. Or via email at publicworks@townofwarsawnc.com.



The Town of Warsaw Stormwater Utility

Anyone living in Warsaw knows the problems a heavy rainfall or severe thunderstorm can create. Roads can become impassable and standing water remains long after the storm passes.

The Town of Warsaw recently approved and implemented a Stormwater Utility to manage the stormwater that runs off properties of residents and business owners and goes into the Town's stormwater drainage system.



The Town recently enacted a monthly stormwater fee in order to provide a dedicated source of revenue to implement a comprehensive stormwater management program. These funds will be used for maintenance and repair of the Town drainage infrastructure, such as pipes, storm drains, and ditches in order to help protect properties from flooding. Also, these funds can be used for other major capital investments for the Town's stormwater drainage system.

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snow that does not soak into the ground. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, roads, sidewalks, streets and roofs prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater runoff from intense rainfall can at times exceed the carrying capacity of the Town's drainage system, creating a backup in the system, flooding of roads, yards, and businesses.

Why do I have to pay a stormwater fee?

The Town of Warsaw is responsible for public stormwater management facilities and services, including installation and maintenance of storm drains, inlets, and ditches along Town rights of way or where there is a Town drainage easement. Since all developed properties within the Town contribute to stormwater runoff into the Town's drainage system, the most equitable and ideal method to fund this utility program is to charge a stormwater fee to each developed property within Town.

Were other options considered to pay for the Town's stormwater program and needed improvements to the drainage infrastructure?

Yes. Before the creation of the stormwater utility, the Board of Commissioners considered various options, and chose the stormwater utility fee as the preferred funding method. Due to the lack of grants available for drainage projects related to flood control/prevention, a dedicated source of revenue to meet the funding requirements of such a comprehensive program was necessary.

Why is the stormwater management program not funded by tax revenues?

Before the Stormwater Utility was established, all funding for drainage maintenance/repair work came from available funding sources such as property tax revenue. Since this source of funds is not adequate to meet the current needs of the Town's drainage system, the stormwater utility fee was established as a better alternative to raising property taxes. All developed properties in Town, including government, schools, and other tax exempt properties will contribute towards the overall cost of the stormwater management program by paying the monthly fee.

How much is the stormwater fee, and who has to pay the fee?

All developed properties within the Town limits are charged a stormwater fee of \$3.50 per month.

How is the stormwater fee billed?

The stormwater fee is billed monthly on the Town of Warsaw Utility Bill.

I rent my house. Why am I being charged?

Responsibility for utility services is assigned by the Town to the user of the property. For developed properties that are unoccupied, the fee will be charged directly to the owner on a quarterly basis.

What happens if I don't pay my bill?

You risk having your utility services stopped, including water if you are a water customer. In addition, the Town could place a lien against the property or file civil charges to collect.

What can I expect from the Stormwater Utility?

As with any new program, it will take time for the full effect of the Stormwater Utility to be realized. The plan at this time is to generate and build up a dedicated source of revenue that can be used to improve drainage maintenance services, as well as fund drainage capital improvement projects that are approved by the Town Board of Commissioners.

Will the Town perform drainage work on my property if I have a problem?

The Town will only perform drainage work on the public drainage infrastructure, which is located along Town right-of-ways, or where there is a conveyed drainage easement. If a property owner has a drainage problem on his/her property, the Town can be consulted to provide technical assistance & guidance to correct the problem. However, the Town cannot perform actual work on private property.