

Stormwater Utility Fee Increase in October 2008

Beginning October 1, 2008, there will be a \$1.50 Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) increase in the City's Stormwater Utility fee. This increase will generate roughly \$1.1 million to be used to fund the City's streetsweeping operations along with providing needed drainage system maintenance. In prior years, these activities were funded via property tax revenue, or through the City's General Fund. By eliminating the General Fund cross-subsidy into the Stormwater Utility Fund, and correspondingly increasing the Stormwater Utility fee, all stormwater utility-related expenditures are now fully funded by users.

Monies generated by the fee directly benefit Lakeland's citizens and businesses. They are used to pay for programs to prevent stormwater related pollution of our lakes and streams as well as protect residents from flooding. The stormwater utility fees fund street cleaning operations, Federal/State mandated water quality improvement programs, drainage projects, educational programs for the prevention of stormwater pollution, and other stormwater related programs. Without these stormwater funded programs, stormwater pollution potential is increased, stormwater drainage systems can become clogged with debris because of lack of maintenance, flooding and loss of property can occur due to inability to fund projects, lakes can become overrun with invasive aquatic plants, and water quality of lakes can continue to decline and cause fish and wildlife to suffer as well as reduce lake aesthetics. The health of Lakeland's lakes is dependent on the programs funded by these fees.

To fairly distribute the Stormwater Utility fee amongst City citizens and businesses, the fee is based on the amount of impervious area (roofs, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, etc.) within developed properties. An ERU value of 5,000 square feet of impervious area is designated for single family dwellings and the fee is calculated for non-residential properties by determining the number of ERUs for each property and multiplying it by \$6.00. The table below shows the new Stormwater Utility Fees for the different residential property types (single family, mobile home, and attached) and for non-residential property.

Stormwater Utility fees effective October 1, 2008, for residential and non-residential properties.

Property	Fees without Credit	Fees with 75% Credit
Single family home	\$ 6.00	1.50
Mobile home	\$ 4.00	1.00
Apartment (attached)	\$ 3.50	0.90
Non-residential per ERU	\$ 6.00	1.50

The City allows credit up to 75% of the Stormwater Utility fee for residential and non-residential properties which can demonstrate that stormwater generated on site is treated by a stormwater management facility. The customer is responsible for obtaining and completing the application for Stormwater Utility Credit for their site. Generally, industrial and commercial sites apply for credits, however, homeowners associations may apply on behalf of a community. Questions regarding the Stormwater Utility Program and including credit applications should be directed to Doug Gleckler, Manager of Lakes & Stormwater at (863) 834-3307.

Additional information can be found on the City's Lakes & Stormwater Website @ <http://www.lakelandgov.net/publicworks/lakes/>