

Stormwater Credit/Fee Frequently Asked Questions

This fact sheet is a quick reference guide to the policies and procedures in the City’s Stormwater Policy Manual and does not represent the entirety of information from that manual. All property owners with questions about stormwater fees or stormwater fee credits should read the Stormwater Policy Manual. Questions can be directed to the City Stormwater Coordinator, Sky Schelle, at 937-324-7739 or sschelle@springfieldohio.gov .

1. I own a house/condo. What credits are available?



You can reduce your stormwater fee several ways. For instance, you could plant a rain garden, disconnect your downspouts, or put up rain barrels. The chart below gives more details. If you’re interested in reducing stormwater in a way that isn’t listed here, or need help determining what practices are appropriate for your property, contact the City Stormwater Coordinator.

Facility/Practice	Requirement	Credit
Bioretention/rain garden	Sized to capture runoff from 25% of the parcel’s impervious area.	50% credit against the stormwater fee
Rain barrel/Cistern	Homes must have storage for 100 gallons. Businesses must have storage for 15% of the runoff from a 1 inch rain.	50% credit against the stormwater fee
Disconnect Downspouts from underground drain and seal pipe	At least 75% of the property’s downspouts directly outlet onto a flat or concave pervious area at least 10 feet wide and 15 feet long.	50% credit against the stormwater fee

2. I own a business. What credits are available?

If you own a business, there are several credit options. You can install the practices listed above in #1. Other options, offering a 15% credit, include biweekly parking lot sweeping, establishing no-mow zones around stormwater ponds, planting water quality-improving vegetation below a pond’s water line, vegetated swales and filter strips, infiltration and percolation basins, percolation trenches, green roofs, buffer strips and swales, porous pavement, constructed wetlands, and trash racks on stormwater pond outlet structures.

If your property has onsite stormwater detention, those practices can earn credits under certain circumstances. Common examples of detention practices include stormwater ponds and underground stormwater storage cells. See the Stormwater Policy Manual for more details and

contact the City Stormwater Coordinator if you have questions about whether your property has onsite stormwater detention.

3. Is my condominium association or homeowners association eligible for credits?



Yes. The association's stormwater detention practice might be eligible for a credit. For example, if the stormwater pond can be shown to detain or treat more stormwater than required by ordinance, a credit is available. See the Stormwater Policy Manual for more details and contact the City Stormwater Coordinator if you have questions.

4. How do I apply for a credit?

After December 31, 2013, the credit application fee is \$10 for owners of vacant, residential, and individual condominium property and \$75 for all other property. Application fees are non-refundable. There are two short forms that must be filled out, and those can be found in the Stormwater Policy Manual. The Policy Manual explains how to fill out the form and where to send it.

5. How can I dispute the amount of my stormwater fee?

If you believe you are being overcharged for stormwater, please fill out the ESU Adjustment form in the Stormwater Policy Manual. After December 31, 2013, the application fee for user fee adjustment is \$10 for owners of vacant, residential, and individual condominium property and \$75 for all other property owners. The Policy Manual explains how to fill out the form and where to send it.

6. Under what circumstances do I not have to pay the stormwater fee?

The stormwater fee applies to all properties draining to any part of the city stormwater system. The system includes storm and surface water management facilities including but not limited to inlets, conduits, manholes, ditches, gullies, canals, channels, lakes and ponds, curb and gutter, infiltration facilities, components (or allocated portions of components) of the City's wastewater treatment system deemed necessary to treat wastewater containing stormwater, and other components as well as natural waterways. Property owners who believe that runoff from their property never reaches any part of the city stormwater system can petition the Stormwater Coordinator that the fee not be applied to their property. The petition form is in the Stormwater Policy Manual.

7. Where can I get more information?

The Stormwater Policy Manual is at: <http://www.ci.springfield.oh.us/swu/index.htm> . If you want information about any of the practices listed here or in the Policy Manual, contact the City Stormwater Coordinator.