

Stormwater Utility

OVERVIEW

- Stormwater is runoff water resulting from precipitation
- Dunwoody's stormwater system includes over 18,700 structures and 69 miles of City-maintained pipes to convey stormwater
- As stormwater hits the ground, it picks up pollutants like oil, fertilizer, and other waste flowing into stormwater structures
- Stormwater Utility funds are used to maintain the stormwater infrastructure and reduce water pollution caused by stormwater

BACKGROUND

The City created a Stormwater Utility in 2009 to provide a dedicated funding source for maintenance of public storm water infrastructure and to address state and federal regulatory requirements related to stormwater runoff.

As with electric and water/sewer utilities, the stormwater utility fee paid by property owners should be set to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the system.

Over the course of 2010 and 2011, the City completed a complete inventory of the entire public and private stormwater system throughout the City. A database was developed with the location, size, type and condition of each component of the system. The inventory identified 18,700 stormwater structures and 69 miles of pipe.

INTERESTING FACTS

- About 75% of the City's stormwater system consists of Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP)
- The typical service life of CMP in Dunwoody is about 35 years
- The City currently has about 300 metal pipes older than 35 years
- A number of components have been identified for replacement through citizen reports or through the system inventory. The cost of this backlog is estimated at about \$3,300,000.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

STORMWATER

Q

What is stormwater?

A

Stormwater is rainfall that instead of soaking into the ground, runs off across the surface of the ground and then into natural and man-made drainage systems.



STORMWATER POLLUTION

Q

If stormwater is rain, how and when does it become polluted?

A

As the rain flows across rooftops, lawns, streets, and parking lots, it picks up pollutants like oil, lawn fertilizers, litter and other waste then flows untreated into our waterways. The U.S. EPA estimates that 80% of water pollution is caused by stormwater runoff.

STORMWATER UTILITY

Q

Since DeKalb provides the water and sewer services, why does Dunwoody have its own Stormwater Utility?

A

The City of Dunwoody formed our Stormwater Utility in 2009. As a utility, all stormwater fees paid by Dunwoody homeowners and businesses are re-invested in Dunwoody stormwater infrastructure. Additionally, through the utility, we can strategically build reserve funds to address major unforeseen stormwater issues.

RESPONSIBILITY

Q

Who is responsible for maintaining all of our stormwater infrastructure?

A

We are all responsible for the maintenance of our stormwater infrastructure. From reminding your neighbors not to put leaves down the storm drains to cleaning up after our pets - everyone plays an important role in keeping our system in good shape.

For individual pipes, drainage ditches, or infrastructure, the responsibility for maintenance depends on the ownership. Typically, ditches located on private property are the responsibility of that property owner to maintain, including keeping them free of debris. If you have questions about specific assets, please call the City at (678) 382-6850.



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION!

1. Never dump anything down a storm drain or a drainage ditch
2. Recycle motor oil and other vehicle fluids
3. Throw litter in its place
4. Clean up after your pet
5. Check your vehicles for leaks (and repair them!)
6. Dispose of household hazardous waste at designated locations
7. Compost yard clippings
8. Use fertilizer and pesticides only when needed (read the labels!)
9. If you wash your car at home, do so on the lawn not the pavement
10. Tell a friend or neighbor about how to prevent stormwater pollution

