Answering Your Questions

Why should I pay for rain falling on my property?

Property owners are being charged a stormwater utility fee for the cost and privilege of discharging stormwater into the public stormwater system which the City-Parish is obligated under law to maintain. With a stormwater utility fee, property owners are charged a fee for runoff discharged from their property to local water ways, not by the amount of rain falling onto your property.

Where does your money go?

The stormwater fund will allow us to build better drainage projects to control water during storms, create more stormwater practices to filter water, and keep our waterways free of pollutants. The EPA and DEQ require us to do our part to keep our national waterways clean.

What happens if the City does nothing or refuses to comply with the EPA and DEQ permit regulations?

If the City-Parish chose not to comply with Federal and State regulations, the penalties would be stiff. It would be $50,000 each day for the federal penalties and $25,000 each day with the state penalties for a whopping $75,000 per day. That is simply not workable, and they would eventually compel us through the court system to take care of our waterways.

Will the utility be responsible for the maintenance of my detention pond?

No. The maintenance of a retention or detention pond remains the responsibility of the property owner.

Answering Your Questions

When will the stormwater user charge go into effect?

The first annual stormwater user charge will appear on the 2023 tax bill that will be billed in or around the last week of November 2023, and then each year around the same time, thereafter.

Will City-Parish properties be subject to the stormwater user charges?

Yes, all federal, state and City-Parish properties will be assessed the stormwater user charges.

Why are churches, non-profits, schools, and other governmental entities being billed?

Churches, non-profits, schools, and other governmental entities impact stormwater utility systems just like commercial and industrial sites. Impervious surfaces on the parcels of churches, non profits, schools, and other governmental entities place demands on the stormwater system, as all developed properties do. Having a separate fee for stormwater runoff is comparable to paying separate bills for water, sewer, garbage pickup, and fire protection.

STORMWATER UTILITY FEE FAQ

225-389-4865
brla.gov/stormwaterutility
Benefits for Our Community

- Provides resources to reduce flood risks and improve water quality in our streams and rivers.
- Funds long-term stormwater infrastructure maintenance.
- Addresses a backlog of drainage maintenance projects, including roadside drainage and sinkholes.
- Empowers the City-Parish to collaborate with community partners to regularly clean litter from our roads and drainageways.
- Improves the quality of life for East Baton Rouge Parish residents through tangible actions that result in safer and cleaner communities.

Stormwater Utility Facts

- Although the City-Parish has done a good job providing stormwater services on a very limited budget, the backlog of capital improvements has grown, and additional maintenance activities are required.
- East Baton Rouge Parish is required to address the amount and type of pollution carried by stormwater runoff that is deposited into the local creeks and streams.
- This fee includes service charges for the operation, maintenance, improvement of, and to the stormwater system.
- The stormwater utility fee is based on the amount of square feet of impervious surface you own.
- All owners of real property in the City-Parish will pay the stormwater utility fee based on the amount of Billing Units (BU) you have.

How much will it cost you?

How will my stormwater charge be calculated?
The stormwater user charge will be calculated based on your property’s impervious area square footage and the monthly stormwater rate per Stormwater Billing Unit (BU). One BU is equal to 500 square feet of impervious area. In 2024, the monthly stormwater rate per BU is expected to be $1.36 per month.

The correlation between impervious area and the stormwater charge makes this the most equitable method for funding stormwater obligations.

How is my impervious area calculated?
The City-Parish uses Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software to map and analyze property and area cover data to determine the amount of impervious area for all properties in Baton Rouge.

The actual impervious area that is determined for each property typically consists of the roofline of the buildings, square footage of other attached and/or detached structures and hardscaped areas.

What is an impervious area (IA)?
An impervious surface is any surface which significantly prevents stormwater from soaking into the soil. Common impervious surfaces include roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots, concrete or asphalt paving or other surfaces which similarly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater.

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