



CURRENTS



Street sweeping is one of many stormwater services currently provided by the MWA, which will begin charging user fees for this and more beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

STORMWATER USER FEES SET TO START JAN. 1, 2022

MWA Customers have benefited this year from quite a deal, as they've received stormwater services without having to pay for them in 2021. At the start of next year, however, the MWA will begin collecting Stormwater User Fees for the many services the Authority has been providing, including:

- Sweet Sweeping
- Repairing, Replacing, and Installing Stormwater Pipes
- Maintaining Stormwater Ditches

- Cleaning and Maintaining Pipes, Catch Basins, and Culverts
- Repairing and Replacing Catch Basins
- Repairing Stormwater Related Sink Holes
- Maintaining Public Detention Ponds
- Implementing a Preventive Maintenance Program
- Managing Water Quality Issues

On Jan. 1, 2022, the MWA will begin billing its residential customers a monthly Stormwater User Fee of \$4.99,

and its non-residential customers a monthly fee of \$4.99 per 2,200 square feet of impervious surface on their property, for stormwater services.

The 2,200 square feet represents an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), which is the amount of impervious surface for the average home in Macon-Bibb County. This Stormwater User Fee will be applied to the monthly water and sewer bill of all MWA customers.

For more information, please visit our website at www.maconwater.org.



Detention or retention ponds are the most common means for on-site stormwater management that might earn a customer MWA stormwater service fee credits.

STORMWATER SERVICE FEE CREDITS AVAILABLE

Residential and non-residential MWA customers can apply for Stormwater User Fee Credits to reduce monthly charges for stormwater services. Most commonly, these credits come in the form of on-site stormwater detention or retention ponds and stormwater education programming activities.

The bottom line is that Stormwater Credits account for on-site mitigation measures customers implement on their respective properties to diminish runoff impacts on the MWA drainage system. Detention and retention ponds are the primary means for reducing the impact of a property's stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Credits also may be applied to activities in public information and education a customer engages in to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff on the MWA system.

For more information on Stormwater Credits, please visit our website at maconwater.org/stormwater-management, or contact the MWA Stormwater Utility at 478-464-5600.

Stormwater Credit Activity	Description	Credit Term (Years)	Single Family Residential (SFR) Points	Handicap Accessible (HA) Points	Depth (ft)
Low Impact Paved (LIP) Impervious	Demonstrate that property has less than 5% impervious area.	3	X	X	30
Low Impact Paved (LIP) Impervious	Demonstrate that property has less than 20% impervious area.	3	X	X	15
No Direct Discharge to Public Stormwater System	Demonstrate that stormwater runoff leaving property does not flow through any stormwater infrastructure owned or maintained by MWA.	3	X	X	50
Compliance with Stormwater Management Manual (SMM) Standards	Runoff Reduction and/or Water Quality	3		X	10
Compliance with SMM Standards	Channel Protection/Aquatic Resource Protection	3	X	X	10
Compliance with SMM Standards	Overbank Flood Protection	3	X	X	10
Compliance with SMM Standards	Naturally vegetative stormwater facilities constructed prior to SMM adoption to bring them into compliance with current regulations. Apply 20% per SMM standard met (see 3 SMM standards above).	3	X	X	10, 20, 30
Impervious Area Removal	Remove graded impervious areas on a property for a supplementary 2.5-month credit.	1		X	10-50
NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit Compliance	Implement and enforce a program to control pollutants discharged from industrial facilities.	3		X	20
Stormwater Education Program (Educational Facilities)	For daycare, Pre-K-12, and postsecondary schools, teach approved watershed education curriculum to enrolled students.	1		X	20
Stormwater Education Program (Non-residential Organizations)	Provide watershed education curriculum or training to members of your organization or public.	1			10
Stewardship	Participate in stream clean-ups, marking storm drains, etc.	1			10

This overview of stormwater user fee credits can be found on our website at: maconwater.org/stormwater-management.

WHAT IS IMPERVIOUS SURFACE?

Impervious Surface is defined as that area on a piece of property that does not allow rainfall or stormwater to pass through.

Impervious Surface Area is the most commonly used basis for stormwater service fee rate structures.

Studies have shown that Impervious Areas on a property, such as roof tops, pavement, and other surfaces, influence the character of stormwater runoff that must be addressed by utilities such as the MWA. These surfaces impact the rate of stormwater runoff, the total volume or amount of flow, and the amount of pollutants that stormwater carries into streams, rivers, and lakes, which serve as the natural resources for our drinking water.

For the purpose of determining fair and equitable Stormwater User Fees, Impervious Surface is measured according to Equivalent Residential Units (ERU).

With the average residential property in Macon-Bibb County having 2,200 square feet of Impervious Surface, that measure serves as one ERU for the MWA. Thus, beginning Jan. 1, 2022, residential customers will pay \$4.99 per month for Stormwater Utility Services, while non-residential customers will pay \$4.99 per 2,200 square feet (or ERU) of impervious surface on their property.

For more information on Stormwater User Fees and Stormwater Services, please visit our website at maconwater.org/stormwater-management.



Impervious surface areas do not allow rainfall or stormwater to pass through, thus creating the need for stormwater drains to collect runoff from weather events.

DIRECTOR OF WATER OPERATIONS HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

MWA Director of Water Operations Gary McCoy received the Hugh A. Wyckoff Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) during its Annual Conference & Expo in Savannah this summer.

The purpose of the GAWP Wyckoff Award is to encourage active and sustaining participation in the GAWP, to recognize the application of increased knowledge to the service of water supply and water pollution control in Georgia communities and industries, and to recognize outstanding accomplishment in the promotion of the profession. The Award is presented annually to a GAWP Member who has rendered unusual or outstanding service in planning, promoting, or assisting in the conduct of the Association.

As Director of Water Operations, McCoy has helped the MWA attain a number of facility and system awards during his tenure at the Authority, including multiple Gold Awards for system evaluation scores of 95% or higher, multiple Gold and Platinum Awards for 100% permit compliance at the Amerson Water Treatment Plant, multiple Plant of the Year Awards for the Amerson Plant, and the ultimate national award as "The Best Tasting Drinking Water in North America," as judged by AWWA in 2009.

For the complete feature on Mr. McCoy and MWA Awards, please visit our website news archives at www.maconwater.org.



Gary McCoy, MWA Director of Water Operations, received the water industry's Hugh A. Wyckoff Award during the recent Georgia Association of Water Professionals Annual Conference & Expo.

IT'S HURRICANE SEASON: ARE YOU PREPARED?



With September serving as National Preparedness Month, protect your home and family members in the event of an emergency.

Don't overlook the importance of having a **Family Emergency Plan** and **Basic Ready Kit** at your disposal.

THE KEY COMPONENTS OF A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN INCLUDE:

- Contact information for all family members. (*Remember, mobile devices could be inoperable.*)
- Each family member's medical information.

- Each family member's schedule during the week (*after school, work activities, etc.*).
- A pre-determined place to meet in the event you lose contact.

SOME ESSENTIALS TO STORE AWAY IN YOUR BASIC READY KIT INCLUDE:

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day (*for at least 3 days*).
- Non-perishable foods (*and a can opener*) for that many days as well.
- A radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.
- A first aid kit and a whistle to signal for help.
- Plastic sheeting or tarps, as well as duct tape, for shelter repairs.
- Garbage bags and plastic bags.
- Tools, or at least a wrench and pliers.
- Local maps.
- Face masks, wet wipes, and hand sanitizer.

More information is available at: <https://www.ready.gov/georgia> or <https://gema.georgia.gov/plan-prepare/ready-georgia>.



Among the many things you can do to help prevent stormwater pollution or problems for the MWA is to NOT blow leaves or place other debris or trash into stormwater drains.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

You can help us prevent stormwater pollution caused by stormwater runoff, which will in turn protect our drinking water resources. Some helpful practices to prevent stormwater pollution include:

- Use lawn and plant fertilizers sparingly.
- Use less toxic pesticides, follow the labels, and learn preventative pest solutions.
- Sweep/clean driveways, sidewalks, and gutters.
- Don't blow leaves or dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard to reduce the flow of runoff.
- Compost your yard waste.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces, and consider using a rain barrel or garden to capture runoff.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
- Pick up after your pet.
- If you have a septic tank/system, pump and inspect it regularly.

For more information on stormwater pollution prevention, please visit our website at maconwater.org/stormwater-management.

IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER

Can you imagine no water to drink or wash your hands with? Imagine having no water to shower, flush the toilet, do your laundry, or cook your meals!

Hospitals would have to close, firefighters couldn't fight fires, and farmers couldn't water their crops. Not to mention, the current pandemic would be worse!

This year, Imagine A Day Without Water is Thursday, Oct. 21. This seventh annual educational initiative helps

raise awareness about the value of water. The annual event is organized by the Value of Water Campaign of the U.S. Water Alliance, which includes the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Water Environmental Federation (WEF), among other industry and utility partners, such as the MWA.

Imagine A Day Without Water brings together diverse stakeholders to highlight how water is essential and invaluable to



everyday life, and how water utility infrastructure is in need of investments.

For more information on Imagine A Day Without Water, please visit the event website at <https://imagineadaywithoutwater.org>.

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