About the Stormwater Utility
Impervious surfaces such as rooftops and paved driveways prevent stormwater from soaking into the ground and cause it to run off faster. This can increase the volume of trash and pollutants being carried to streams. The Gwinnett County Stormwater Utility provides stormwater control measures that can help manage this runoff, while also reducing the amount of pollution carried by stormwater to Gwinnett’s waterways.

To fund construction, maintenance, and repair of the stormwater system in Gwinnett County, a Stormwater Utility Fee is collected from property owners. These fees are based on the amount of impervious surface area on each parcel of land.

Stormwater Utility Fee Credits
Property owners who take actions to limit the amount of stormwater that leaves their properties and/or clean pollutants from the runoff can earn credits that will lower their Stormwater Utility Fee.

This document outlines a number of activities property owners can take to reduce their fees. Detailed information, including the application form, can be found in the Stormwater Credits Manual on the Gwinnett County website at www.gwinnettstormwater.com.

Credits are available in two areas: Watershed Stewardship and Water Quality. The total maximum credit for any property is 40%. Once credits are processed, they are applied to the Stormwater Utility Fee on the property tax bills.

All maps that are referenced can be found on the County’s GIS Data Browser: https://gis.gwinnettcounty.com/GISDataBrowser/WebPages/Map/FundyViewer.aspx

Watershed Stewardship Credit Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Impact Parcels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Properties with minimal impervious surfaces (7% or less of the total property area) qualify for up to 30% credit for five years.</td>
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<td>The credit amounts are as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 5% or less impervious is eligible for a 30% credit.</td>
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<td>• 5.01% - 6% impervious is eligible for a 20% credit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 6.01% - 7% impervious is eligible for a 10% credit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Include a drawing showing the entire property and all hard surfaces or a map printed from the County’s GIS Data Browser.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Septic Tank Maintenance</th>
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<td>Property owners who have their septic tanks pumped out may earn a 10% credit for five years from the date of service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Include a receipt or paid invoice (dated and addressed from a licensed septic hauler) with the application.</td>
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</table>

Visit www.gwinnettstormwater.com for more information
County Approved Workshops and Training Programs
Residential property owners may earn a 5% credit once per year if at least one person in the household learns how they can improve water quality or reduce stormwater runoff by attending an approved workshop or training program.
To register, call 678-376-7126 or email dwrworkshops@gwinnettcounty.com with your name, address and telephone number, or register online at https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/portal/gwinnett/Departments/PublicUtilities/WaterConservation/PublicEducation/WorkshopsRegistration

Public Participation
A 5% credit is available if at least one person from a residential parcel spends four hours per year participating in an activity like stenciling storm drains, participating in a stream cleanup project, or attending and passing an Adopt-a-Stream training course.
Include a certificate of participation with the application. Email DWRInfo@gwinnettcounty.com for more information on these activities.

Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA) Properties
Owners of agricultural land, timberland, or environmentally sensitive land that have qualified for a conservation use assessment status may earn a 10% credit for a maximum of 10 years.
Include documentation that a CUVA designation has been established and the parcel’s size in acres. For more information, contact the Gwinnett County Tax Assessor’s Office at (770) 822-7200.

Rain Barrels
Rain barrels collect rainwater from rooftops and are usually located under downspouts. Property owners must connect each downspout to a separate rain barrel (minimum size of 50 gallons) in order to receive up to a 3% credit. If all of the downspouts are not connected, partial credit is earned. Cisterns, dry wells, and underground perforated pipe (minimum 33 feet of 6 inch pipe) may be used as well. (See also Water Quality Credit Opportunities/Cisterns.)
Include photographs of installed barrels and a drawing or map printed from the County’s GIS Data Browser showing the location of all rain barrels, cisterns, dry wells, etc.

Farmland Deep Tillage
Farmers who till their land at least 18 inches deep can receive up to a 10% credit for 5 years.
Include a drawing showing the entire property and areas that have been deep tilled.

Stream Restoration / Streambank Stabilization
Credit for these practices that improve the physical condition of streams are based on the amount of streambank repaired. Designs must be prepared by professionals (usually an engineer or landscape architect). The maximum credit is 30% per year for 10 years.
Approval from the Department of Water Resources Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) will be required prior to construction. An early coordination meeting is strongly encouraged. For more information, call 678.376.6700 and ask to speak with someone in the WIP Group.

Direct Discharges
Property owners who live on or near the county border and whose stormwater runoff does not flow through any State stream, stormwater pipe, road, or facility that is owned, operated, or maintained by Gwinnett County qualify for a 40% credit.
Include a drawing or map printed from the County’s GIS Data Browser showing the location of the property, adjacent roads, and where stormwater flows.

Connection to Sanitary Sewers
Property owners who currently utilize septic tanks (or other on-site systems) will qualify for a one time, one year only 40% credit for the first year after connecting to a sanitary sewer.
Include documentation from a plumber that the on-site system has been decommissioned and a Department of Water Resources invoice showing the connection fee has been paid.

Automatic Sprinkler Sensors
Property owners who install sensors to prevent automatic sprinklers from operating during rain events can earn a 10% credit for a single one-year term after installing the sensors.
Include photos & documentation that the system has been installed and is functioning properly. New installations eligible only.
Water Quality Credit Opportunities

Water Quality credits are earned by property owners who install facilities that capture pollutants, thereby providing treatment of stormwater before it enters streams. Homeowners can earn up to 10% Water Quality credit for a five-year term.

- **Residential Rain Gardens** are boggy low spots in the landscape, planted with appropriate native vegetation. Rain gardens collect stormwater runoff and allow it to soak into the ground.
- **Cisterns** are containers that collect rainwater and are typically connected to roof downspouts. Eligible cisterns are capable of storing a volume of rainwater equal to the amount of runoff generated by a 1.2 inch storm event on the impervious area connected to the cistern.
- **Unpermitted Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are private Water Quality facilities contained on a single-family residential parcel (e.g., a wet detention pond).

When submitting a rain garden or cistern application, include photos and a site plan showing the size and location of the facility, along with any other supporting material.

When submitting an application, include a drawing showing the location of the stream and fencing, along with any other supporting material.

When submitting a watershed improvement project application, include drawings showing the size, location, and any other supporting material.

When submitting an application, include a drawing showing the size and location of the easement area or a map printed from the County’s GIS Data Browser along with a copy of the recorded conservation easement that has been established.

More information on Stormwater Utility Fee Credits can be found in the Credits Manual on the Stormwater Utility page of the website.

To apply for stormwater credits:

- Complete a county-approved watershed stewardship activity
- Fill out a credit application - available on the website as either a PDF or Word Document
- Return application and any required documentation to:

  Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources  
  c/o Stormwater Billing/Credits Unit  
  684 Winder Highway  
  Lawrenceville, GA 30045-5012

  Or email: swservice@gwinnettcounty.com

www.gwinnettstormwater.com