

Stormwater Utility

Protect Water Quality and Save Money



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.gwinnettcountry.com/GISDataBrowser/WebPages/Map/FundyViewer.aspx>

Watershed Stewardship Credit Opportunities

Low Impact Parcels

Properties with minimal impervious surfaces (7% or less of the total property area) qualify for up to 30% credit for five years.

The credit amounts are as follows:

- 5% or less impervious is eligible for a 30% credit.
- 5.01% - 6% impervious is eligible for a 20% credit.
- 6.01% - 7% impervious is eligible for a 10% credit.

Include a drawing showing the entire property and all hard surfaces or a map printed from the County's GIS Data Browser.

Septic Tank Maintenance

Property owners who have their septic tanks pumped out may earn a 10% credit for five years from the date of service.

Include a receipt or paid invoice (dated and addressed from a licensed septic hauler) with the application.



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@gwinnettcountry.com with your name, address and telephone number, or register online at <https://www.gwinnettcountry.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@gwinnettcountry.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 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.

Non-Residential School Watershed Education Curriculum

Eligible non-residential educational institutions that instruct or promote stormwater topics in support of the County's stewardship goals may earn up to 40% credit per year.

Eligible institutions must operate at least 6 hours/day and 180 days/year. Child care centers, day cares, and Pre-K programs must be licensed and registered with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (<http://dec.al.ga.gov/>).

Fencing Livestock Out Of Streams

Property owners with livestock can improve stream quality by installing fencing that prevents their livestock from accessing streams along their properties. A 5% credit can be earned by land owners who install and maintain fencing to accomplish this.

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

Watershed Improvement Project Participation

Property owners who donate easements for construction and access for these projects constructed by Gwinnett County can receive up to 10% credit for a single five-year term.

Contact the Department of Water Resources at 678-376-6765 or 678-376-6948 if interested in determining if a project has been identified for any particular property.

Conservation Easements

Property owners who have permanently protected land in a predominately natural state by means of a conservation easement donated to a land trust or government entity can receive up to a 10% credit for 10 years. The credit is based on the amount of property placed in the conservation easement and assumes that each 900 square feet of conservation easement will offset 100 square feet of impervious surface.

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.

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 rain water 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 a report explaining how much hard surface area drains to it. BMPs must pass a county site inspection.

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

