



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

FOR A CLEAN COMMUNITY

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What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is runoff from a rainstorm or melting snow. County landscapes - unlike forests, wetlands, and grasslands that trap water and allow it to filter slowly into the ground - contain great areas of impermeable asphalt and concrete surfaces that prevent water from seeping into the ground. Stormwater also picks up many pollutants as it travels across the hard surfaces. These pollutants include: motor oil, pesticides, fertilizers, trash, and sediment that can harm the water quality of our local creeks, rivers, and lakes. As stormwater runoff travels over urban landscapes, the flow increases and water quality decreases.

What is Stormwater Management Program?

A planned and managed process to bring complex institutional, technical, financial, political, and societal issues together to implement solutions, goals, and objectives for stormwater management. Douglas County, like other communities, needs to manage stormwater to:

- 1) Reduce flood risks that may impact public safety and loss or damage of property; and
- 2) Prevent polluted stormwater from flowing directly into rivers, lakes, and streams.

What is a Stormwater Utility Fee?

Like gas, electricity, water, and sewage, stormwater runoff can be managed as a utility and billed as a fee. The fee is based on the concept that every developed property in a watershed contributes stormwater runoff and should support the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of stormwater drainage systems in the County. The amount of support is based on the amount of stormwater runoff the property contributes to the County stormwater drainage system. The amount of stormwater runoff a property contributes is directly proportional to the amount of impervious area or hard surface that is on the property.

An impervious surface is any hard surface that does not allow rain to absorb into the ground. Impervious surfaces increase stormwater runoff. Examples of impervious surfaces are roofs, parking lots, streets, sidewalks, and driveways



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