

# Johns Creek Forms Stormwater Utility

Pervious Plus Impervious ERU Funds EOS Expansion



# **The Stormwater Challenge**

1. Why consider a Utility?

2. Key components of a SWU?

3. What's different about this SWU?



### Phase II MS4 plus MNGWPD Member

- City formed December 1, 2006
- 31.4 Square Miles
- Population of 85,097, 10<sup>th</sup> largest city in Georgia
- MNGWPD includes 15 counties and 95 cities







#### **Maintenance Responsibility**





Current Policy in the Right-of-Way (red dotted lines).

**RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)** 

- 2. Maintenance Responsibility:
  - 2.1. <u>Public Stormwater Drainage System</u> The City shall conduct periodic inspections for maintaining that portion of Stormwater Drainage System for which it is legally responsible as set forth in Section 1.2 above. Information collected during these inspections will be utilized in evaluating the condition of the system and in setting priorities for operational and maintenance work as well as capital improvement projects.
  - 2.2. Private Stormwater Drainage System It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the operational characteristics of the Private Stormwater Drainage System located on their property, including but not limited to all easements, channels, detention basins, retention ponds, and other impoundments, so that they continue to operate as they were originally designed and as more specifically set forth in Sections 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, and 2.2.4 below.







# What are the Challenges?

- Development impacts to aquatic wildlife, private property, and public road system
- Lack of maintenance causes water quantity and quality problems
- Meeting State and Federal requirements
- Recent changes to State regulations requiring enhanced management and water quality
- Significant administrative costs



### Infographic for Considered Extent of Service

#### BACKGROUND

The storm drainage system is a network of pipes, open ditches, and other structures that collect and transport stormwater runoff to the nearest stream or lake. Certain elements of the storm drainage system are maintained by the City, while other elements are maintained by the private property owner or Homeowners Association.

The City of Johns Creek extent of service (EOS) policy refers to the components of the storm drainage system maintained by the City. The level of service (LOS) policy defines the maintenance activities performed by the City.

#### LEVEL OF SERVICE

In the public drainage system the City provides inspections and prioritizes and makes necessary repairs. In private drainage systems, the City provides regulatory enforcement and may provide emergency response in isolated instances. All stormwater concerns will be reviewed by the City to determine whether the system is public or private.

#### PUBLIC DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

• Piped drainage system (easement) in residential areas connected to the public road system

• Public streets and rights-of-way

• Public property (city-owned)

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**HEADWALL** (PRIVATE) **DRAINAGE SYSTEM UPSTREAM IN EASEMENT CONNECTED TO ROAD SYSTEM PUBLIC DRAINAGE** PIPE PRIVATE RESIDENCE PUBLIC PUBLIC DRAINAGE **RIGHT-OF-WAY** CULVERT PUBLIC ROAD PUBLIC **DRIVEWAY CULVERT RIGHT-OF-WAY** (PRIVATE) PUÉLIC DITCH 📕 PUBLIC **PUBLIC DRAINAGE INFLUENCE ZONE** PIPE JUNCTION BOX **DRAINAGE SYSTEM DOWNSTREAM IN PRIVATE RESIDENCE EASEMENT CONNECTED TO ROAD SYSTEM DETENTION POND** (PRIVATE) **POND OUTLET HEADWALL** (PRIVATE) DRAINAGE SWALE <sup>/</sup>DRAINAGE SWALE OR WITHOUT EASEMENT **PIPE WITH EASEMENT** (PRIVATE) (PRIVATE)

**STREAM / CREEK** 

### System Maintenance, Repair & Replacement

- System assessment in 2019 of 34,000 assets
- July 2020 Desire to expand Extent of Service
- Expands system from 11,000 to 34,000 assets
- Estimate C&M costs ~\$16,000,000 over 10 years
- Existing replacement list 155 projects totaling \$3.4 million





# Why a Stormwater Utility?

- Desire to not impact existing program funding
- Investigated funding sources -August 2020
- Stormwater Utility Fee:
  - Fee directly related to runoff
    - Stormwater runoff is a measure of system usage
    - Runoff determined by pervious and impervious area
  - Most equitable
  - Dedicated Fund





## **Steps to Implement a Stormwater Utility**

#### 1 Education and Outreach

- 2 Program Organization
- 3 Impervious Surface Layer
- 4 Rate Structure
- 5 Billing Process
- 6 Stormwater Utility Ordinance



Carter, L.T., 2008, *Stormwater Utility Handbook - A Step-by-Step Guide to Establishing a Utility in Coastal Georgia*, University of Georgia

	Component	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
1	Education and Outreach									
2	Organizational Structure									
3	Impervious Surface Layer									
4	Rate Structure									
5	Billing Process									
6	Stormwater Utility Ordinance									

### Four Basic Fee Structures Generally Used

- 1) Impervious surface;
- 2) A combination of impervious surface and gross area;
- 3) Impervious area and the percentage of impervious surface;
- 4) Gross property area and the intensity of development.



National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, 2006, *Guidance for Municipal Stormwater Funding*, Environmental Protection Agency



### **Stormwater Utility Rate Classifications**

- Residential
  - Single Family Residential Detached (SFRD)
  - Single Family Residential Attached (SFRA) such as townhomes and condominiums
- Non-Residential
  - Apartments
  - Office/Shopping
  - Recreation: Private and Public
  - Schools, Religious, Municipal
  - Res Common Areas and Roads
  - Undeveloped

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## **Impervious Surface Determination**

- Artificial Intelligence and imagery
- United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP).
  - Traditional 3 bands of color ("true-color imagery")
  - 4th band where near infrared data is stored
- Train a machine learning model: <u>maximum likelihood model</u>





24.8%

Percent Impervious Mapped for the City Parcels



### Area Comparison

	Percentage					
	Parcels	Gross Area	Impervious Area	Runoff Area		
Residential	95%	59%	62%	61%		
Non-Residential	5%	41%	38%	39%		

Parcels





Residential Non-Residential

### **Rate Structure: Residential**





#### **Residential Tier Count**





### **Rate Structure: Non-Residential**



	_	Per + Imp RA ERU = 4,000				
Rate Structure	Fee	Value	Lower	Upper		
SFR - 0.5 ERU	0.5 ERU	2,000	401	3,000		
SFR - 1 ERU	1 ERU	4,000	3,001	5,000		
SFR - 1.5 ERUs	1.5 ERU	6,000	5,001	7,000		
SFR - 2 ERUs	2 ERU	8,000	7,001	9,000		
SFR - 2.5 ERUs	2.5 ERU	10,000	9,001	11,000		
Large SFR	Area / ERU	> 11,000	11,001			
Non-SFR	Area / ERU	> 400	401			



### **Stormwater Utility Credits**

- Maximum Annual Credit Prorated Non-Report **Credit Description** Term in Residential Residential **User Fee** Required Year(s) Credit **GSMM Unified Stormwater Criteria** Water Quality Х Х 5 • 10% Yes Х Х **Channel Protection** 5 10% Yes Х **Overbank Flood Protection** 5 10% Yes Х **Extreme Flood Protection** 5 10% Yes Х Х Х Х No Direct Discharge 5 40% No Watershed Stewardship 1 Х Х 10% Yes Septic Tank Maintenance 5 10% No Х Х Х Х Watershed Improvement Project 5 10% No Water Resources Education Program 1 10% Х Yes NPDES Industrial Stormwater 10% 1 Х Yes **General Permit Compliance** Hot Spot BMP Implementation 5 10% Yes Х
- Reduce Impact on System
- Encourage Mission Goal Clean Water



### **Stormwater Utility - Benefits**

- Shift to proactive maintenance
  - mitigate and minimize infrastructure failure
  - focus on customer service
- Improvement to quality of life and provision of clean water
- Better organize and improve efficiency
- Consolidate required reporting efforts



### **Questions?**



For more information visit <u>www.JohnsCreekGa.gov</u> Type "Stormwater" in search box

> Send questions or comments to: StormwaterUtility@JohnsCreekga.gov David.Chastant@JohnsCreekga.gov



Quiz?



How does the City of Johns Creek Stormwater Utility differ from most Utilities?

- A. The City's ERU is based on impervious area only.
- B. The City's ERU is based on pervious and impervious area.
- C. The utility's revenue will fund State and Federal compliance as well as system maintenance and operation.
- D. The City plans to expand the MS4 EOS and improving customer service.

