



**CITY OF TAMPA  
STORMWATER FUNDING PROGRAM  
INFORMATION BROCHURE  
FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004**

This brochure has been prepared to clarify legal notices mailed to City of Tampa residents and to answer some of the questions you may have regarding your City's stormwater funding program.

If you have additional questions, please call (813) 276-6905 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. from August 22, 2003 – September 12, 2003. Para recibir esta informacion en Espanol sirvase llamar a (813) 276-6910.

**Q. What is the purpose of the stormwater charges?**

A. The stormwater charges will be used to pay for street sweeping, maintenance of existing facilities, and planning and stormwater environmental projects in the City.

**Q. Will the revenue go into the City's general fund?**

A. No. Revenue from the stormwater charges will go into a separate fund that may only be used for stormwater services.

**Q. How much money will the City collect from the stormwater charge if it is approved?**

A. It is estimated that \$2.6 million will be collected.

**Q. What is an 'ESFIA'? (Equivalent Square Feet of Impervious Area)**

A. The ESFIA is a billing unit (similar to a kilowatt hour that is the billing unit used to measure electric consumption). It is the median amount of impervious area found on a residential site. In Tampa, each ESFIA represents 3,310 square feet of impervious surface that is found on the property and will be charged \$12.00 per unit annually.

**Q. What is "impervious surface"?**

A. It is the area on a property that is covered by buildings, driveways, parking areas, and other hard surfaces that prevent runoff from being absorbed into the soil.

**Q. How was the stormwater charge for residential property determined?**

A. Single family home sites are charged based on the footprint of their residence within a tier. The tier footprint ranges are as follows:

Small = Building footprint  $\geq 100$  and  $\leq 1,320$  sq. ft.

Medium = Building footprint  $\geq 1,321$  and  $\leq 2,200$  sq. ft.

Large = Building footprint  $\geq 2,201$  and  $\leq 4,000$  sq. ft.

Very Large = Building footprint  $> 4,000$  sq. ft.

The tiers all pay some portion or multiple portions of an ESFIA based on a study which related impervious area on a site, to the building footprints within that tier.

Small = .61 ESFIA.

Medium = 1.0 ESFIA

Large = 1.66 ESFIA

Very Large = 2.82 ESFIA

**Q. How much will non-residential properties pay?**

A. All developed parcels (parcels with impervious areas greater than or equal to 100 sq. ft.) will be charged. Non-residential properties (commercial, industrial, governmental, etc.) will be charged based on the impervious area associated with their property. The calculation will consider the total amount of impervious surfaces (building footprint, parking lot, sidewalks and other paved surfaces) divided by the billing unit value of 3,310 and then will be multiplied by the rate per ESFIA, or \$12.00 annually. **In some cases, a reduction to the bill amount will be granted if the property has a privately maintained drainage facility in place.** The initial non-residential bills are based on digitization of aerial photographs.

**Q. What are mitigation credits?**

A. Mitigation credits reflect the fact that given two identically situated parcels with identical improvements, the parcel with on-site private stormwater treatment facilities will generate less volume of runoff, will generate runoff at a slower rate and/or less polluted runoff than the parcel without comparable facilities.

**Q. Who is eligible for a mitigation credit?**

A. Parcels subject to a stormwater charge may be granted a mitigation credit based on one of the following factors:

1. No portion of the parcel drains to City right-of-way or any part of a stormwater system over which the City has maintenance responsibility.
2. Owner of parcel contributes monetarily to a Community Development District, Civic Association (Homeowners Association or Property Owners Association), or Special District which provides maintenance to non-City owned stormwater management facilities which accept drainage from City rights-of-way.

3. Parcel has a properly maintained and functional onsite stormwater management system which treats and/or attenuates stormwater prior to discharge to the City right-of-way or stormwater system. Proof of proper operation and maintenance may be required on a periodic basis.

**Q. How can I get additional information on the City's Mitigation Credit and Adjustment Policy?**

- A. Additional information or a copy of the adopted policy may be requested by contacting the City's Stormwater Department at (813) 276-6905.

**Q. I think my parcel should receive a mitigation credit. How can I have it reviewed?**

- A. Please contact the City by telephone at (813) 276-6905 and provide your name, address, phone number, the best time for someone to reach you and, most importantly, the **Parcel Identification Number** found on the **Notice of Public Hearing**.

**Q. What if the information regarding my parcel or the impervious area contained on the notice is incorrect? How do I get it corrected?**

- A. If information on the notice is incorrect, please contact the City of Tampa. Corrections will be made to the stormwater charges prior to their placement on the tax bill. City staff will process the appropriate forms and forward them to the Tax Collector for his correction of the tax bill. You may alternatively use the enclosed postcard correction form to notify the City of any corrections to the information on the enclosed notice.

**Q. What if I am billed incorrectly on the tax bill in November? How do I get it corrected?**

- A. If information on the tax bill is incorrect, you will be provided a contact phone number to arrange to have your parcel information corrected.

**Q. What period of time does the stormwater charge cover and when will the stormwater charge be payable?**

- A. The stormwater charge is re-imposed annually and is payable, as part of your tax bill, each year between November 1 and March 31.

**Q. Why is the City using the tax bill collection method to collect the stormwater charge?**

- A. "Piggy-backing" the collection method on the annual property tax bill (1) saves money for everyone by reducing the administrative costs of the program, (2) results in a stable revenue source to fund stormwater services, and (3) is more fair to property owners who pay on time as well as those who may be delinquent in their payments.

**Q. I don't pay taxes now due to homestead exemption. Will I have to pay the stormwater charge?**

- A. Yes. Stormwater charges are different than ad valorem taxes and the stormwater charge applies to all residential property uses regardless of homestead exemption.

**Q. What if I am concerned that I cannot pay the full stormwater charge at one time?**

- A. If you make monthly mortgage payments, it is likely that your mortgage holder will escrow the stormwater charge amount, much like property taxes, and your monthly payment will include this stormwater charge. Alternatively, if you would like to make installment payments, you might wish to contact the Hillsborough County Tax Collector's Office at (813) 635-5200 to arrange to participate in the quarterly installment program for the payment of taxes and stormwater charges.

**Q. I received a discount for early payment of my taxes. Will I receive the same discount for my stormwater charge?**

- A. Yes. The same discounts and penalties applicable to ad valorem taxes will also apply to stormwater charges collected on the tax bill.

**Q. I currently claim a deduction for property taxes on my income tax return each year; can I claim a deduction for this stormwater charge?**

- A. This is a question for your tax adviser. However, generally a stormwater charge against your residence is not a valid income tax deduction. However, if you own rental property or a business, the stormwater charge may be deductible when computing your income taxes. Please contact your accountant or income tax preparer for information regarding your specific situation.

**Q. I have a tenant in my house. Should the tenant pay the stormwater charge or will I have to pay it as the property owner?**

- A. Like property taxes, stormwater charges are billed to property owners only; each property owner or landlord will have to determine how the tenant should share in the stormwater charge costs.

**Q. Is the accompanying notice a bill?**

- A. No, this is preliminary notice of the stormwater charge that will appear as an additional line item on your property tax bill in November.

**Q. What will happen at the public hearing scheduled for September 11, 2003?**

- A. At the public hearing on September 11, 2003, the City Council will hear comments from the public regarding the proposed rates established for these revenue sources. After receiving comments, the City Council will finalize its decision.

**Q. Where can I get more information?**

- A. If you have a question regarding the stormwater charge, you may contact the City Stormwater Department at (813) 276-6905, Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. This information line will be in service from August 22, 2003 to September 12, 2003.