# Stormwater Utility



# What is the stormwater utility fee?

Adams County established a Stormwater Utility (SWU) in 2012. The SWU assesses a fee on properties each year. The SWU is a mechanism to fund the cost of services related to the implementation of the Stormwater Management Program. The SWU finances the design, installation and maintenance of public storm sewer infrastructure for residents in unincorporated Adams County west of Schumaker Road (near Denver International Airport). Visit www.adcogov.org/stormwater to view the service area map.

# What is the storm drainage system?

The storm drainage system is an underground combination of pipes and inlet boxes as well as drainage ditches and ponds designed to drain excess rain or snowmelt from paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks and roofs. Storm structures are located in low-gradient areas and vary in size, diameter and location. Stormwater flows need to be managed in order to minimize the impacts on public safety, damage and loss due to flooding, and water quality.

### How is the stormwater utility fee determined?

The fee is calculated based on the amount of impervious area on each property. An impervious surface is an area that inhibits the infiltration of water into the ground. This includes fully enclosed man-made structures, building rooftops, and laid concrete or asphalt such as driveways and sidewalks, etc. To calculate the annual fee, multiply the stormwater utility fee rate (\$0.02004) by the total square footage of impervious area on the property. Minimum fees apply for properties with at least 500 to 1,000 sq ft. Maximum cap fees also apply according to the different account types (residential, commercial, etc). This means that if the calculated amount is higher than the cap fee, then the cap fee is the amount billed. Note that the calculation above does not apply for multi-family properties such as apartment complexes, condominiums,

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or commercial parcels with multiple unit owners. In this case, the whole parcel's impervious area is accounted and divided by the number of units/properties within that development.

### **Get Involved!**

Would you like to be involved with making recommendations to the County regarding the priority of capital improvement projects and infrastructure needs for the Stormwater Utility? Contact the Stormwater Utility to apply for the Stormwater Advisory Board.

## **Stormwater Appeal:**

File an Appeal if there is incorrect property ownership information or inaccurate impervious area.

Download the Appeal form at www.adcogov.org/ stormwater or contact the Stormwater Utility to request a copy.





