

Understanding Carroll County's Stormwater Remediation Fee

Stormwater runoff originates during precipitation when water flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces, such as streets and rooftops, increase runoff by preventing water from soaking into the ground. Water running over impervious surfaces can pick up sediment, chemicals, debris, and toxins which are carried to local waterways. These pollutants prevent waterways from being fishable and swimmable.

What is the Stormwater Remediation Fee?

In 2012, the State of Maryland passed the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (HB 987) which mandates that counties subject to a certain municipal stormwater permit institute a stormwater remediation fee. The purpose of the fee is to manage pollution carried by stormwater into local waterways.

The collected fees are placed in a *dedicated fund*, used to finance projects that treat polluted stormwater. Examples include such projects as street sweeping, storm drain cleaning, stormwater facility inspection, maintenance and upgrades, tree planting, water quality monitoring, watershed planning,

and stormwater educational programming. The Stormwater Remediation Fee is similar to fees for other public services such as sewer, drinking water, and highways.

Who has to pay the Stormwater Remediation Fee?

The stormwater remediation fee applies to the nine largest counties in Maryland (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's) and Baltimore City, all of which are federally required to treat stormwater runoff. Residents, businesses, and institutions in these areas are all required to pay the fee. The fee structure is established independently by each county/city and differs across the State.

What does the Stormwater Remediation Fee look like in Carroll County?

On June 27, 2013, the Carroll County Commissioners passed a series of resolutions regarding the Stormwater Remediation Fee. Through these resolutions, the County will:

- Create and fund a Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund (WPRF);
- Continue to fund stormwater management projects by utilizing grants, capital, and general operating funds deposited into the WPRF;

- Annually review recommendations from staff to support the planned and programmed stormwater remediation activities in accordance with the county's annual operating and six year Community Investment Plan process.
- Direct staff annually to compare stormwater remediation allocations to the resources projected to be available in the WPRF for the fiscal year to advise the Board of recommended funding levels, and continue its Commitment to funding stormwater services under the County's NPDES permit (99-DP-3319).

No new fees or taxes will be set up to fund the WPRF at this time. For more information, see <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/plan/swmfee/release.pdf>

What can I do to help address stormwater runoff pollution?

Among other practices, residents can install rain barrels, rain gardens, and porous pavers, and practice Bay-Wise landscaping to help in the fight against stormwater runoff.

Always remember with stormwater - *slow* it **down** and *soak* it **up**!

Additional Resources

Maryland Department of the Environment
Stormwater Fee FAQ:

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Maryland/Pages/StormwaterFeeFAQ.aspx>

Carroll County Stormwater Remediation Fee webpage:

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/plan/swmfee/>

House Bill 987

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?ys=2012rs%2fbillfile%2fhb0987.htm>

Contact Krisztian Varsa (kvarsa@umd.edu, (410) 771-1761), Watershed Restoration Specialist for Baltimore, Carroll and Harford Counties and Baltimore City, to answer your questions about the fee and what you can do to reduce stormwater runoff on your property.

Please note: This factsheet is intended to provide an overview of the stormwater remediation fee at the time of publication. For more updates and information please go to: <http://ccqgovernment.carr.org/ccq/plan/swmfee/>.

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