



FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

August 18, 2022

Background

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, the Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing a Stormwater Enterprise Fund (SEF). The SEF is a utility that derives revenues from stormwater management fees. The intent of the utility is to address stormwater management needs within the Town of Swansboro's jurisdictional limits. These needs include construction, reconstruction, repair, enlargement, improvement, acquisition, maintenance, operation, administration, and use of the stormwater utility. This SEF Annual Snapshot is an opportunity for you to review the projects completed with SEF revenue, projects planned and the annual expenditures of the SEF.

FY 2021-2022 Financial Results

The FY 2021-2022, budgeted revenue and expenditures for the SEF was \$299,134. Uncollected budgeted revenue will be transferred into the SEF balance that may be used for stormwater related activities in future years. Based on the FY 2021-2022 Fourth Quarter Financial Status Report, the SEF utility had revenues totaling \$199,247. Operating revenues exceeded operating expenditures by \$45,197. According to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) ending June 30, 2021, net position in the fund is. \$129,774.

FY 2021-2022 Maintenance Efforts

The Town of Swansboro now maintains approximately, 14.38 miles of storm drainage easements. In FY 2021-2022, approximately 2.85 miles of drainage easements were, in some manner, maintained by the Public Works Department Crew, 3 separate times throughout the year, as these easements are in Town maintained subdivisions. Those subdivisions include Forest Brooke, Halls Creek North, Swansboro Acres, Swansboro Heights, Foster Creek, currently, one specific easement in Park Place and one specific easement in River Reach. These easements that are regularly maintained, total 53 of the possible 119 storm water easements for which the Town is responsible. As a matter of reference, we were only able to address 1.18 miles of drainage easements during fiscal year 2016-2017 before enacting the fee. The fee has allowed Town staff to increase their ability to handle these efforts. As stated in previous versions of this report, "At this present pace, this reduces the overall time to maintain all the Town's easements from 12.19 years to 2.20 years."

Site specific projects completed in FY 2021-2022 with SEF revenue include: replaced 120 feet of stormwater pipe from Broad Street to Shore Drive, replaced approximately 15 feet of storm water pipe

on Phillips Road, placed more than 200 feet of river rock in the easement in Halls Creek North at the bottom of Morganser Court to control erosion and flow of stormwater, repaved and reshaped the asphalt leading to a stormwater drain at the corner of Front and Church Streets, and repaved and reshaped the asphalt leading to a stormwater drain at the end of Broad Street, and along the north side of Water Street.

Stormwater Grants/Loans

Since Swansboro adopted a Watershed Restoration Plan in 2017 (Figure 1), it has been able to work with the North Carolina Coastal Federation to secure funding grants from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 319 Grant Program administered by the NC Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to install stormwater retrofit projects to work toward plan implementation.

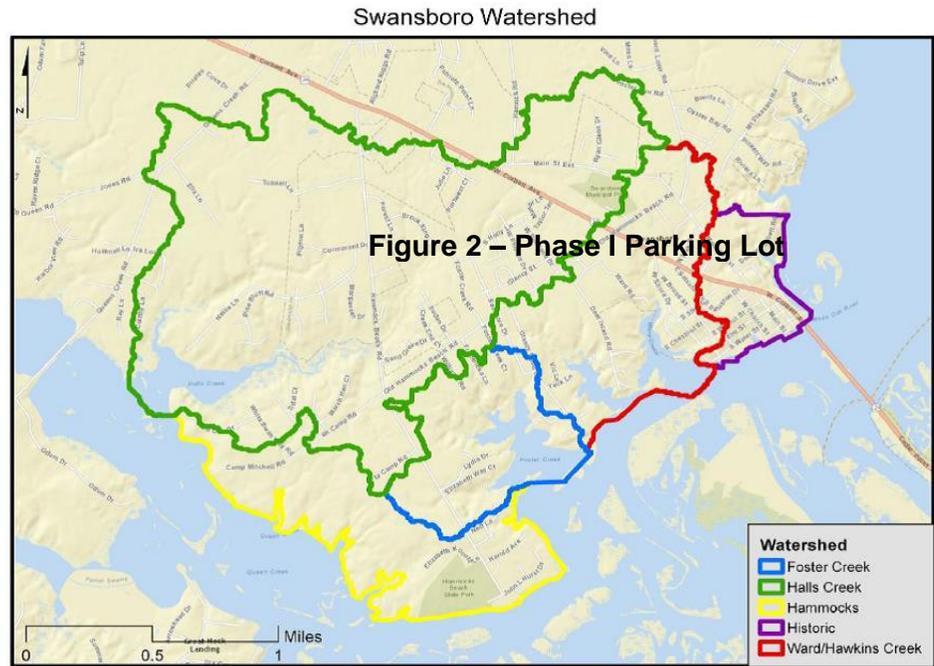


Figure 1 – Swansboro Watershed Map
Source: Swansboro Watershed Restoration Plan



Figure 2 – Phase II Parking Lot @ Town Hall Campus



Figure 3 – 3000-gallon rain

These projects were funded with Onslow Soil and Water and EPA Section 319 Project funds. Together the projects demonstrate most of the stormwater reduction techniques featured in the popular Smart Yards guide. [Click here to view the Smart Yards Guide.](#)



Figure 4 – Swansboro Middle school assisting in building a rain garden @ Town Hall.



Figures 5 & 6 above are matured rain garden in 2022.

Five-year Stormwater Plan – Completed Projects Highlighted

Specific Action	Project Status
Secure funds for retrofits in Swansboro Watersheds (Figure 1) and determine the volume that can be reduced with funds.	Installation of rain barrels on Town properties where applicable (installed at Public Safety and Public Works)
Review capital improvement projects that are planned for the next five years to consider the incorporation of stormwater reduction designs.	Multi-use paths/sidewalk construction. NC DCM Coastal Communities Program Grant – Sidewalk Priorities 1 & 2 completed along NC24 and Old Hammock Road through assistance by the Town, NCDOT and the State (local legislators).

Prioritize retrofits for public town buildings that can serve as demonstration sites for stormwater retrofits.	Completed Town Hall Campus, Ward Shore 319 Grant completed. Walnut Street Retrofit under construction FY 2022/2023.
Install stormwater reduction measures on the Town streets, rights-of-ways, buildings, parking lots and drainage systems and other public properties.	Ward Shore (portions of Water Street removed and replaced with pervious Eco-Raster Parking Spaces); Engineer/Design underway for portions of Broad Streets through NC RCCP funding, installation of bioretention swales on town stormwater easements where applicable.
Pursue strategy with NCDOT to incorporate retrofits into highways. Pursue strategy with NCDOT that any new road upgrade or maintenance plans includes plans for reducing stormwater runoff.	Strategies underway and in discussion with DEQ on future planned sidewalks/multi-use paths particularly on Hammock Beach Road. The medians along the Highway 24 Corridor can be used as collection for stormwater through similar rain garden/vegetation practices.
Evaluate existing stormwater systems on public properties for potential volume reduction enhancements and if feasible, retrofit them to achieve volume reduction.	Phase II Parking Lot @ Town Hall Campus completed.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

In FY 2018-2019, the Board of Commissioners approved to lease/purchase multiple pieces of equipment including a Kubota Mini Excavator and a Kubota Skid Steer. The equipment has been used for stormwater maintenance due to the amount of stormwater easements that need to be re-profiled. The mini excavator also minimized the damage that can be caused by improper equipment. The mini excavator was leased for three years at a total cost of \$32,692. The Kubota Skid Steer was purchased for \$52,772. In FY 2021-2022, a larger John Deer 60G Mini Excavator was purchased for \$87,000.

FY 2022-2023 Financial Outlook

For FY 2022-2023, the SEF has anticipated revenues of \$144,215 and anticipated expenses of \$144,215. The decrease in the FY 2022-2023 is due to a reduction in expenditures.

FY 2022-2023 Maintenance Plan

The maintenance plan will include continued upkeep of the town’s drainage easements and complaint mitigation. The Town has partnered with NCDOT to maintain ditch and drainage infrastructure along DOT right-of-way in town through a reimbursement contract. It is believed that not only will this assist the town in controlling stormwater but provide for more of an aesthetically pleasing roadside. Town staff has also scheduled maintenance work in the following areas for FY 2022-2023:

- Holly Lane drainpipe replacement
- Prioritization of stormwater easement cleaning and maintenance to include:

- Pineland Drive/Villages easement .33 miles
- Jones Funeral Home easement .13 miles
- River Reach/River Reach West Connection easement .02 miles
- River Reach West/Tasha Terrace easement .03 miles
- Deer Run easement .19 miles
- Walnut Street End Retro-fit
- River Reach West stormwater easement cleaning and maintenance

Fee Structure/Comparison and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

CURRENT STORMWATER FEE STRUCTURE WITH APPLICABLE CREDITS

Residential <i>(Based on square foot size of the home)</i>	Lump Sum Payment Credit	*Watershed Credit
\$5.00/month or \$60/annual	\$55/annual	\$50/annual
Commercial Tier <i>(Based on impervious surface area)</i>		
Minimum Fee \$5.00/month or .01/SF, whichever is greater	Lump Sum Payment	*Approved BMP
<i>Example 10,000 SF of impervious surface = \$8.33/month or \$100/annual</i>	<i>\$91.67/annual</i>	<i>\$83.34/annual</i>

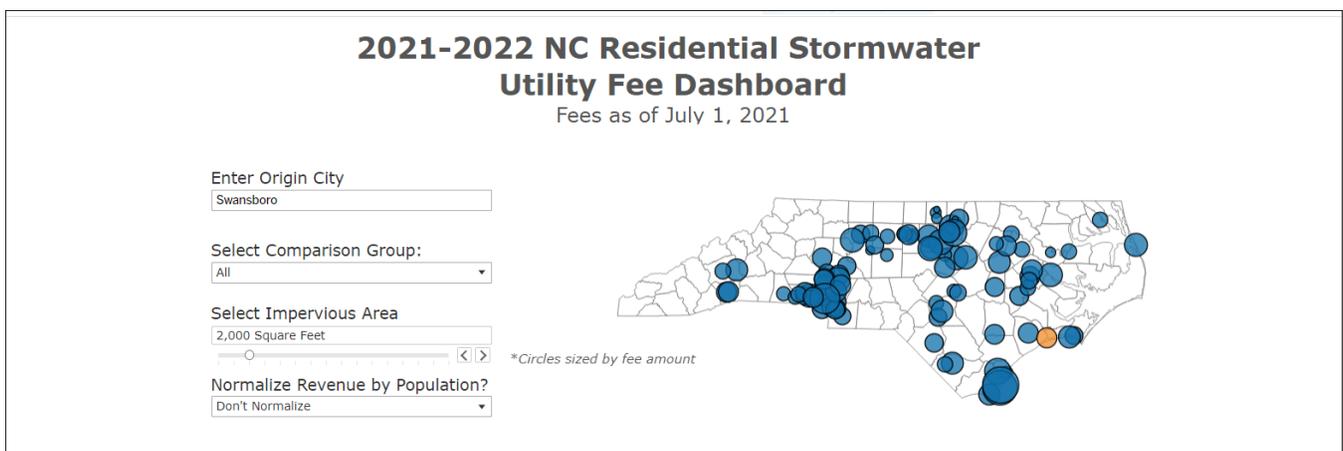
**Subject to the Adopted Credit Manual for Stormwater Fees*

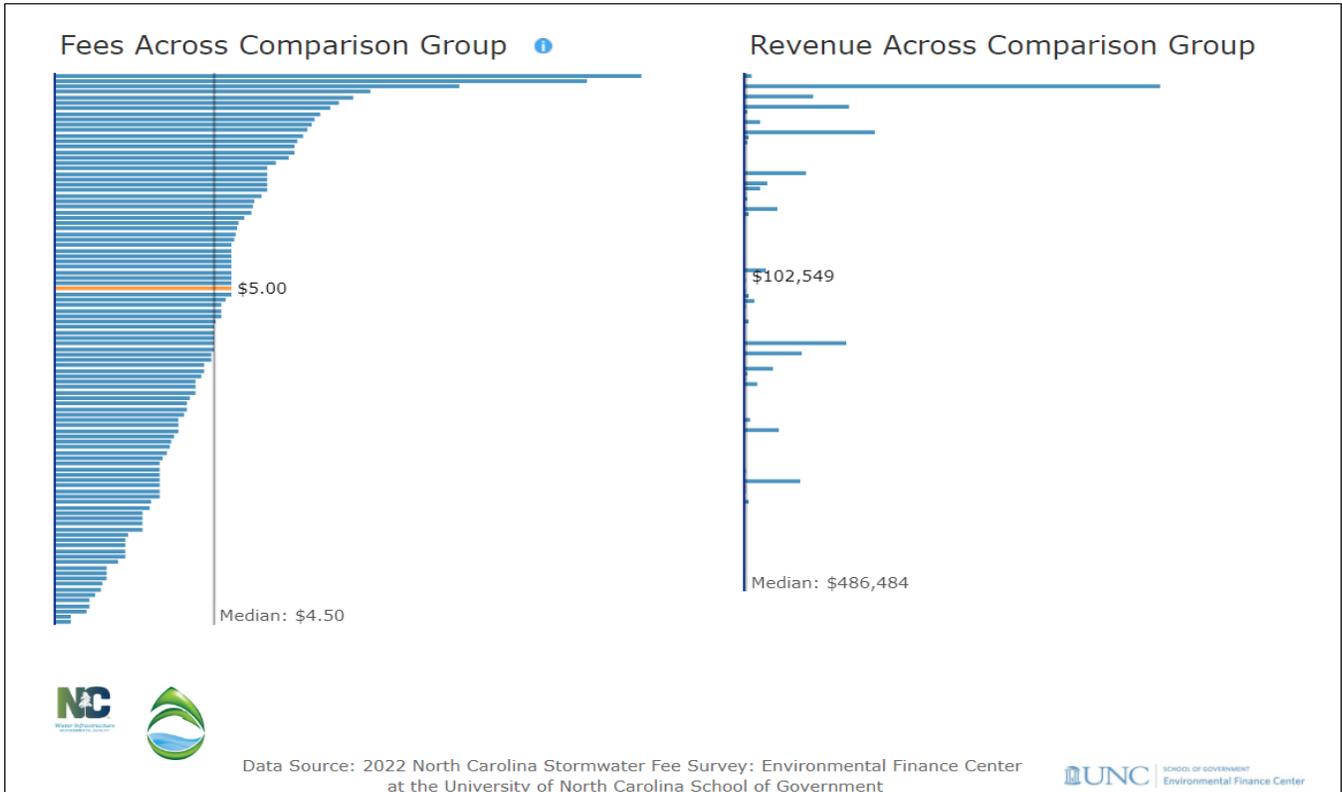
FAQ's

Question: How does Swansboro's SEF fee compare to other communities in NC?

Answer:

Source: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/efcatunc/viz/2021-2022StormwaterDashboard/StormwaterDashboard?publish=yes>





Utility / Fee Structure	Fee	2019 Utility Operating Revenue ¹	Median Household Income ²	Estimated Service Population ²	Total Number of Dwelling Units ²
Swansboro	\$5.00	\$102,549	\$48,922	3,217	1,493
Median Comparison	\$4.50	\$486,484	\$51,545	13,908	5856

Question: What are Stormwater Enterprise Fund fees used for?

Answer: Stormwater Enterprise Fund fees are dedicated exclusively to stormwater management activities.

Question: Who is responsible for neighborhood detention and retention pond maintenance?

Answers:

- *The Homeowners Association or the developer is typically responsible for maintaining neighborhood detention and retention ponds.*
- *For unfinished subdivision ponds, the developer or the bank holding the lots is responsible.*

Question: When will the easements in our neighborhood be cleared?

Answer: Easement clearing is based largely on the amount of flooding caused due to blockage, overgrowth, neglect or overall impact (i.e., Halls Branch is the largest and longest stormwater easement in town, approximately one mile). It is cleared on a yearly basis due to the number of properties affected if left unattended. If the easement is not causing flooding, clearing can be either complaint driven or due to its overall unsightliness.

Question: How are stormwater projects prioritized?

Answer: Stormwater projects are prioritized by what is most beneficial and cost effective to the town.

Question: Whom do you contact if stormwater/drainage is backing up on my property?

Answer: Immediately contact the Town of Swansboro at (910)326-4428 or email Public Works Director Gerald “Tank” Bates at gbates@ci.swansboro.nc.us

Question: Whom do you contact about stormwater/drainage maintenance or questions regarding if a drainage easement is private or owned by the Town?

Answer: Contact the Town of Swansboro at (910)326-4428 or email Public Works Director Gerald “Tank” Bates at gbates@ci.swansboro.nc.us

Closing

Staff continues to audit the stormwater utility by evaluating accounts and performing site visits. Remember you can help the Town's efforts by removing debris from ditches or yards, maintaining drainage ditches on private property, maintaining or cleaning curbs/gutters, and cleaning or mowing roadside ditches adjacent to your property.

Again, in FY 2021-2022, the fund allows customers to receive credits towards the utility bill. A goal of the Watershed Restoration Plan is to offer a discount to residential property owners who reduce the volume of runoff discharged from their home site.

In addition, a credit can be achieved by all property owners for payment of the annual fee in full. Commercial properties that have an approved best management practice (BMP) may qualify for an additional credit and additional credits for approved LID techniques.

For all stormwater related information and to obtain a copy of the manual and application, please contact (910)326-4428 or click here [Stormwater Manual and Application](#).