



FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

August 1, 2023

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 2022-2023 Financial Results

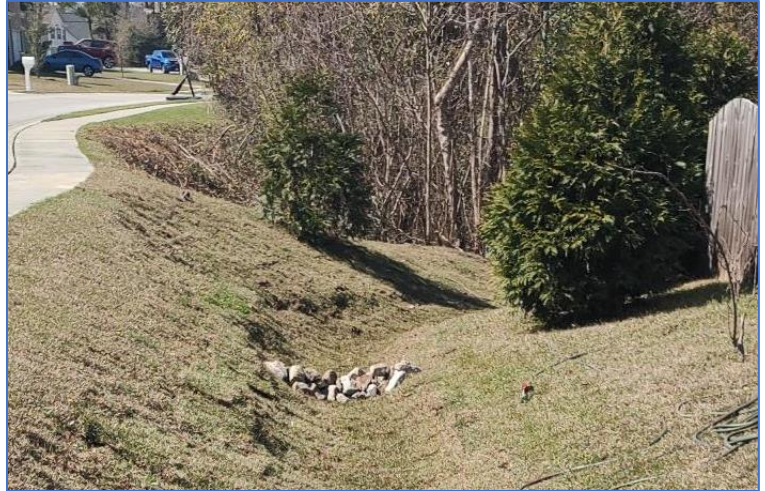
The FY 2022-2023 *budgeted* revenue and expenditures for the SEF was \$261,203. As of the Fourth Quarter Financial Status Report revenue collections totaled \$186,915; operating expenditures were \$185,658.

FY 2022-2023 Maintenance Efforts

The Town of Swansboro now maintains approximately 18.29 miles of storm drainage easements. In FY 2022-2023, approximately 13.2 miles of drainage easements were, in some manner, maintained by the Public Works Department Crew, three 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, Deer Run, Park Place, River Reach, River Reach West, Oyster Bay, Pickets Bay, and The Villages. The easements that are regularly maintained, total 80 of the possible 119 storm water easements for which the Town is responsible. Additionally, the remaining stormwater easements throughout the Town were inspected, cleared and graded as necessary, for the first time in over five years. 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 Stormwater 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 2022-2023 with SEF revenue include: redesigning the stormwater easement that borders 286 River Reach Drive and 288 River Reach Drive. Redesigning the stormwater easement at the corner of Creek End Court and Sand Grover Drive in Halls Creek III Subdivision.



Placed over one ton of rip rap at the opening of a stormwater easement bordering 308 Oak Ridge Court and 310 Oak Ridge Court in the Forest Brook Subdivision, performed routine maintenance on 13.2 miles of stormwater easements within subdivisions and major clearing and debris removal on 3.8 miles of other stormwater easements throughout the town.

Stormwater Grants/Loans

Since Swansboro adopted its 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. Additionally, the Town of Swansboro was awarded a \$400,000 Planning Grant through the NCDEQ, Division of Water Infrastructure, Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investment Program (LASII), that will allow the Town to complete an accurate and up to date Storm Water Map of the entire



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

Town, conduct an assessment of all storm water assets and finally develop a priority list of assets that require reconstruction, redesign, critical maintenance, corrective maintenance and routine maintenance.

Five-year Stormwater Plan/Status

| Specific Action | Project Status |
|---|--|
| Secure funds for retrofits in Swansboro Watersheds (Figure 1- previous page) 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. NCDOT Coastal Communities Program Grant – Sidewalk Priorities 1, 2, and 4 completed along NC24, Old Hammock Road and Hammocks Beach 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 Retrofits at Town Hall Campus, Ward Shore and Walnut Street Retrofit completed. |
| 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 completed for Board/Elm Streets through NC RCCP Ph. 3 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 – on NCDOT list as superstreet design |
| 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. |

Walnut Street Retrofit



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 is 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

As previously mentioned, anticipated revenues for FY 2022-2023 close-out are \$261,203. The increase over the original budgeted amount from the previous year's report was grant funds received for the Walnut Street Retrofit Project and the RCCP Phase 3 Engineer/Design Project.

FY 2023-2024 Maintenance Plan

The maintenance plan for the coming year 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 rights-of-way in town through a reimbursement contract. Not only does this assist in controlling stormwater but it provides a more aesthetically pleasing roadside. Town staff has also scheduled maintenance work in the following areas for FY 2023-2024:

- River Reach West Subdivision reconstruction of a stormwater easement.
- Prioritization of stormwater easement cleaning and maintenance to include:

- Halls Branch 1.18 miles
- Jones Funeral Home easement .13 miles
- Deer Run to Main Street Extension under road pipes and marsh area.13 miles
- River Reach West/Tasha Terrace easement .03 miles
- 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> |

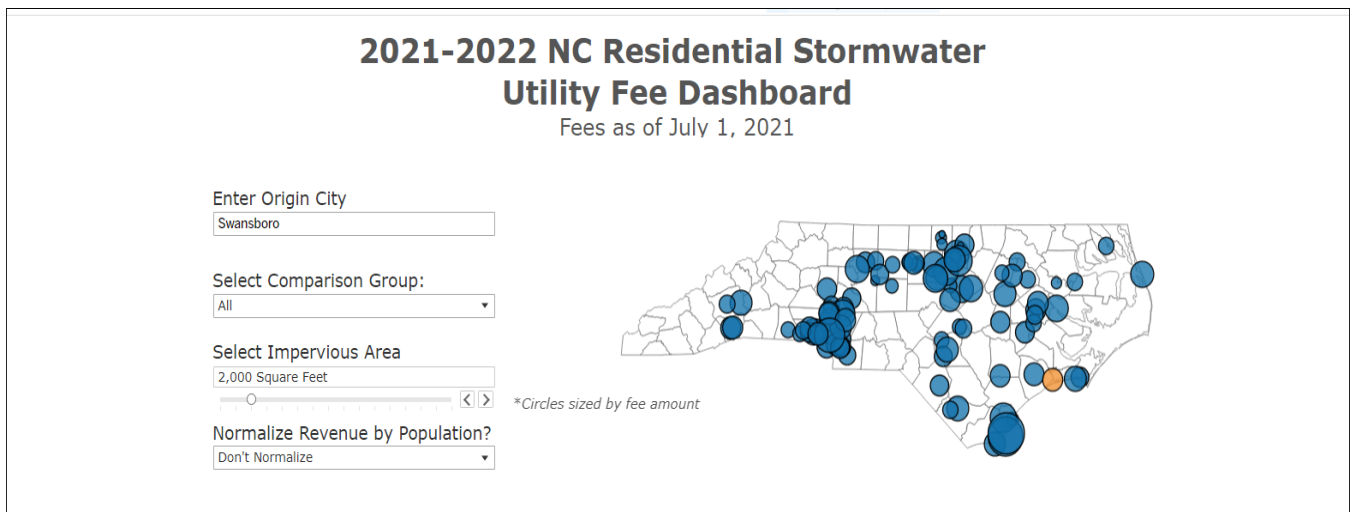
**Subject to the Adopted Credit Manual for Stormwater Fees*

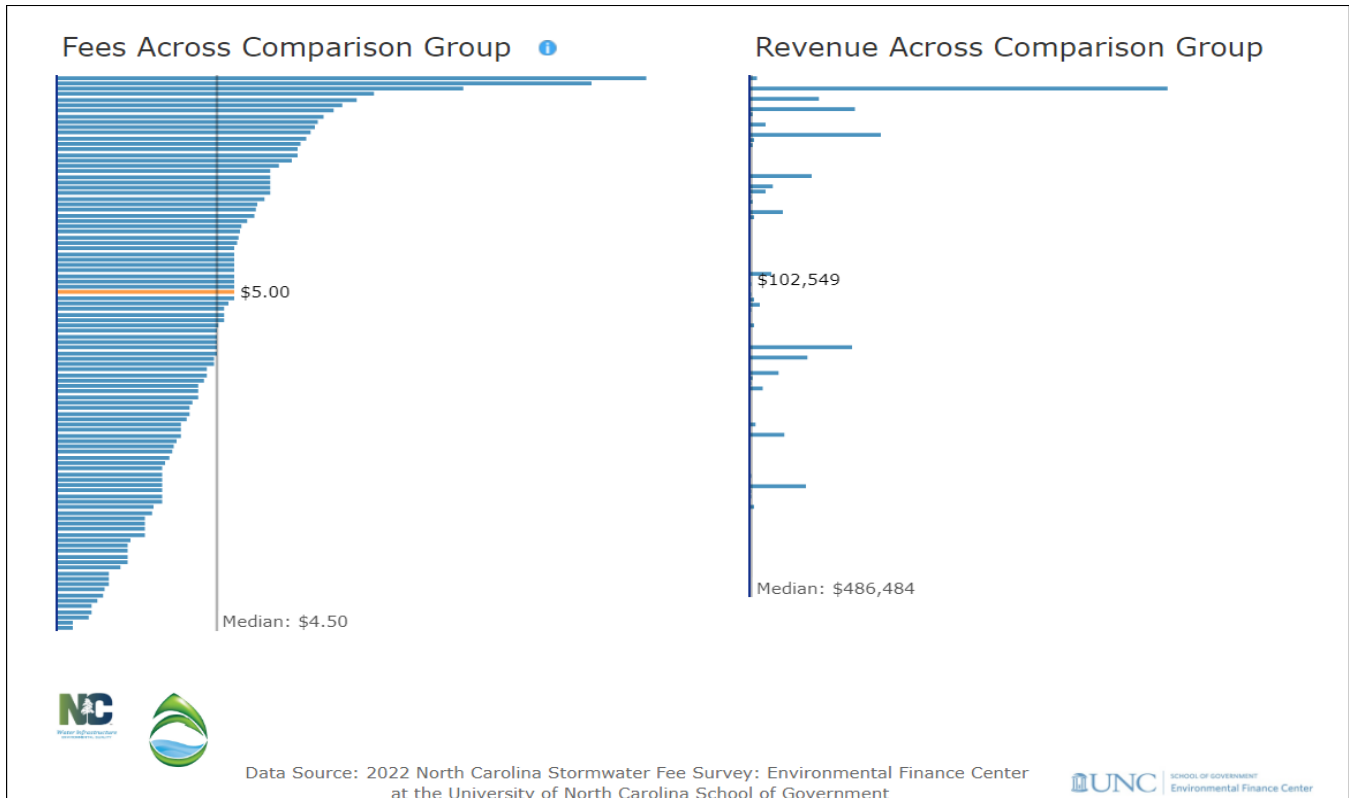
FAQ's

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 throughout the entire Town.

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.

The Stormwater Ordinance 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 Sonia Johnson at sjohnson@ci.swansboro.nc.us (910)326-4428 or click here [Stormwater Manual and Application](#).