

City of McDonough Stormwater Utility February 2007

The City of McDonough is regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA), as administered by the Georgia Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The CWA was enacted by United States Congress to address pollution problems affecting our streams, rivers, and lakes. One of the core programs of the CWA is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, which requires that anyone who discharges pollutants into waters of the U.S. must obtain an NPDES permit. Municipal stormwater systems fall under this mandate and are regulated by Georgia EPD. The City of McDonough is therefore required to obtain and maintain compliance with an NPDES Permit for discharge of stormwater from areas within the City.

The NPDES permit for the City of McDonough requires that a number of programs and best management practices specific to stormwater runoff and water quality be implemented. These programs, policies and procedures mandated by the NPDES permit are referred to collectively as the Stormwater Management Program. To implement this program, the City has decided to pursue the creation of a stormwater utility and fund it through stormwater service fees. The fees are typically determined on the basis of size and amount of impervious or paved area of each parcel. On February 1, 2007, the City of McDonough staff and its consultant presented to the City Council the projected cost of the program over the next five-year period and reviewed the options available to the City for the rate structure on which the fees will be based. The recommendation will be presented to the City Council for approval in May or June of this year. If approved, the fees will be included in the 2007 ad valorem tax bills in September.

It is well known that uncontrolled stormwater runoff can be a major source of pollution in our streams and rivers. Untreated stormwater runoff from parking lots, roofs, and streets drain through the stormwater system into lakes and rivers, illegal dumping, littering, overuse of fertilizers and pesticides and failing septic systems all contribute to poor water quality. In the long-run, the cumulative effect of numerous small pollutant sources is substantial. Dedicated funding for the City's stormwater program will enable McDonough to provide education and outreach programs for its citizens, identify and eliminate sources of discharges to streams that are harmful to the streams and the environment, perform timely maintenance of the stormwater infrastructure systems so they can perform as designed, and many others activities.

City staff can be contacted for further information about the stormwater program and the proposed stormwater utility at City Hall at 136 Keys Ferry Street, McDonough, GA 30253 or by calling (770) 957-3915.