

City of McDonough Stormwater Utility Implementation Update June 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.

As described earlier in the February informational flyer and news release, 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 and that the City has decided to pursue the creation of a stormwater utility and fund it through stormwater service fees. On February 1, 2007, the City 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 City Council has elected to pursue a rate structure that is based on a 3,000 square foot impervious unit with the rate per unit being the same for all land uses. Undeveloped properties having no impervious area will not be subject to the fee. In addition, all properties classified as single-family residential will be assessed a flat fee amount. On May 31, the City staff and consultant also presented recommendations for provisions whereby non-single family residential properties could apply for and receive stormwater fee credits. The draft stormwater utility ordinance was also presented and reviewed at this meeting.

Upon completion of the remaining work, a public meeting will be held later this month to present the final rate, a fee credit policy, and the estimated fee amounts for properties in McDonough. If interested, please look for a notice of this meeting in the newspaper or call City Hall for further information. It is expected that the Stormwater Management Utility Ordinance will be presented to City Council for adoption in late June or early July. If approved, the stormwater fees will be included in the 2007 ad valorem tax bills in September.

The Mayor and Council appreciate your understanding and cooperation with meeting the federal and state mandate for protection of the streams and rivers in our community. Please contact city staff for further information at City Hall at 136 Keys Ferry Street, McDonough, GA 30253 or by calling (770) 957-3915.