

**Q. What is the fee structure?**

**A.** The fee structure is applied to several categories of property:

■ Single family residential households are classified separately from other properties and are treated uniformly. The monthly fee is \$4.00 for each single family residence.

■ Duplexes served by two water meters are billed at \$2.00 per month per unit; triplexes with separate meters are billed \$1.33 per month per unit; and four plexes billed with separate meters are billed at \$1.00 per month per unit.

■ Apartments and all commercial and non-residential properties are billed a fee based upon the size of their land area, taking into account the existing impervious area of the land. An evaluation has been made for each property in order to determine the appropriate charge.

**Q. When will the storm drainage utility system fee be placed in effect?**

**A.** The effective date was October 1, 1997 and the fees will be placed on utility billings mailed after November 15, 1997.

**Q. How long will this new fee be in effect?**

**A.** Storm water fees are expected to be needed for many years into the future. This is because the storm water

management obligations that the City will be incurring will require large expenditures that will stretch well into the next century.

**Q. Will the proposed projects solve all of our drainage problems in Grapevine?**

**A.** To a large extent, but not everything can be done immediately. Priorities will be established by the City Council, and the timing of many projects will be based on the amount of revenues collected and other financing factors to be considered. The projects which have been identified cover virtually every sector of the City.

**Q. Whom may I contact if I have further questions?**

**A.** The Storm Water Management Program is administered by the City's department of Public Works and implemented by the Drainage Coordinator. Public Works staff are available to answer your questions. They may be reached at 817/410-3137.

City of Grapevine  
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# CITY OF GRAPEVINE



## STORM DRAINAGE UTILITY SYSTEM

For More Information, Call 410-3137

Website: <http://www.ci.grapevine.tx.us>





In 1989, The Texas State Legislature authorized political subdivisions, like the City of Grapevine, to create a Utility dedicated to the management of storm drainage facilities. The legislation also allowed for the implementation of a dedicated fee for this utility and the management of stormwater drainage.

Environmental concerns regarding runoff and the effects the runoff has on nature and wildlife continue to grow. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering requiring cities to test storm drainage water for various chemicals which may prove hazardous to the environment. Based upon the results, the EPA could require cities to begin treatment of the runoff before it is allowed to leave the city limits.

As a result of these environmental concerns and increased development within the City of Grapevine, as well as in areas which drain into the City, the management of storm drainage has become of paramount concern.

The City of Grapevine City Council takes this growing problem very seriously. In 1988, the voters approved a bond proposal to initiate a Master Drainage Study. This study evaluated the storm drainage criteria to which all new developments must adhere, analyzed the creeks, tributaries, underground storm drainage systems and other facets of the overall drainage system to determine their adequacy and identified potential flood hazard areas. As a result of this in-depth study, standards for new development were initiated.

In 1993, the City Council again demonstrated their dedication to solving problems related to storm drainage by implementing lot-to-lot drainage requirements so that problems result-

ing from new development are addressed prior to the occupancy of the new structures. A Drainage Inspector and Drainage Coordinator were added to the staff at that time to address the review and the inspection of the developments to insure that proper drainage of the properties was implemented.

While these new development standards and inspections address the manner in which stormwater runoff is handled on the property upon which it falls, there is still a need to address stormwater effects on a larger scale, thus, the need for the development of the Storm Drainage Utility.

On September 16, 1997, the City of Grapevine City Council held a public hearing and subsequently implemented a Storm Drainage Utility. The adoption of this Storm Drainage Utility includes a monthly fee on all developed properties within the City of Grapevine. The fees provide a funding source for much needed drainage maintenance, repair, and construction activities related to storm drainage facilities. The revenue collected from the Storm Drainage Utility can **ONLY** be spent on drainage related issues.

To date, the City of Grapevine has a list of approximately 100 existing drainage problems which need to be addressed by crews provided by the SDUS.

The City of Grapevine is not the first city to implement a Storm Drainage Utility. Latest surveys indicate 15 cities in the Metroplex, ranging in size from Dallas, Arlington and Plano to Allen, Colleyville and Watauga, have Storm Drainage Utility Systems in place and charge a monthly fee for drainage services.

## The following is a list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding the Storm Drainage Utility:

### Q. How much is the Storm Drainage Utility System (SDUS) fee?

A. For owners of single family residential properties, the fee is \$4.00 per month. The SDUS fee for commercial and industrial properties is based on the area of the specific property and the imperviousness of the surface of the property. Imperviousness is defined as the relative inability of a developed property to absorb water during rains.

### Q. What will I, as a citizen receive for my monthly payment of the SDUS fee?

A. This new fee will enable Grapevine to fund the construction of several large capital projects and to enhance the scope of the stormwater management program. The expanded maintenance program will include a crew working year round to remove debris and undergrowth from tributaries. The crew will also widen storm water channels and address numerous ponding and other minor problems in flood prone areas.

### Q. Who has to pay the SDUS fee?

A. In most cases, the owners of any developed property within the City limits of the City of Grapevine will pay the fee. The SDUS fee will be included on the water

and sewer bill. If an occupant of the property is responsible for payment of water and sewer service, the city will consider the occupant to be responsible for payment of the SDUS fee.

Churches have received an exemption from this fee. In addition, property owners may file an application with the Public Works Department for a hardship exemption.

### Q. Why is it added to the water bill?

A. Because the City's billing computer is already set up to prepare and send out water, wastewater and solid waste disposal fees to our citizens. The SDUS fee will be added to this bill as a separate charge. This charge will be applied to both residential and non-residential properties.

### Q. Why isn't the cost of this service just paid through assessment of taxes?

A. It could be. The City Council has elected, however, to establish a Storm Drainage Utility System in order to focus available monies on the necessary capital projects and maintenance needs specifically for storm water drainage. The law requires that if a city chooses to establish a storm drainage utility, the City is obligated to establish a fee that is not associated with the value of property as is the case with ad valorem taxes. Rather, the fee is to be associated with the size of the property and a reasonable estimate of impervious area.