STORMWATER FEE IMPLEMENTATION

Bessemer City
NORTH CAROLINA EST.1893
City with a Heart

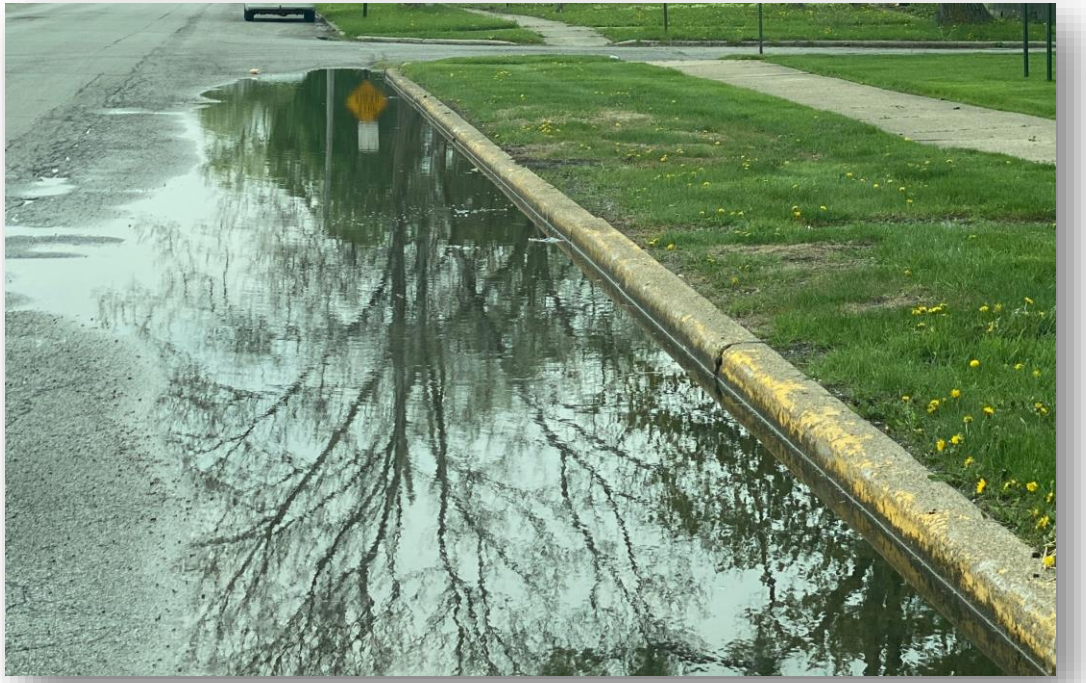
2024-2025 BUDGET

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION- 2PM

ABOUT STORMWATER

Bessemer City is a Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community under the NPDES Program administered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a Phase II community, Bessemer City is subject to the requirements of permit that regulates stormwater discharges to the MS4. Bessemer City is also subject to the state-wide WSW Protection Program that regulates water quality in specified watersheds.



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ABOUT THE STUDY



Withers-Ravenel was hired in 2020-2021 to conduct a stormwater fee study. This equity-based study was based on measuring impervious surface on property. This calculation would then be used to assess a stormwater fee.

The study also included an ordinance review that look at the City's:

- Code of Ordinances
- Land Development Code (LDC)
- MS4 Permit
- Bessemer City Stormwater Management Plan
- Gaston County Code of Ordinances
- Gaston County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)

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STUDY OUTCOMES

- The study breaks down residential and non-residential properties

- An Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is used to calculate non-residential fees
  - The ERU for Bessemer City is 3,286 square feet (residential average for impervious surface)

- Non-residential properties are charged by calculating:
  - **(IMPERVIOUS SURFACE SQ FT / ERU) x RESIDENTIAL RATE = NON-RESIDENTIAL RATE**



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IMPLEMENTATION OPTION 1





Phase 1: 2024-2025 Budget (July 1, 2024)
Residential- Stormwater Fee of $3.07/month goes to $6.00/month
Non-Residential- **50%** of proposed fee implemented (based on impervious surface; multiplier $3.00)



Phase 2: 2025-2026 Budget (July 1, 2025)
Residential- Stormwater Fee remains at $6.00/month
Non-Residential- **75%** of proposed fee implemented (based on impervious surface; multiplier is $4.50)



Phase 3: 2026-2027 Budget (July 1, 2026)
Residential- Stormwater Fee remains $6.00/month
Non-Residential- **100%** of proposed fee implemented (based on impervious surface; multiplier is $6.00)

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IMPLEMENTATION OPTION 1

Why Phase in the Fee?

- Prioritize needed staffing for program and project administration
- Phasing in the fee allows time to develop Stormwater Master Plan, including an asset inventory (AIA) of our current system
- Phasing in the fee allows a Stormwater Fund Capital Improvement Plan (SWFCIP) to be developed
- As additional funding is collected from the fee, revenues can go directly towards needed projects
- Consideration of other fee increase proposals in the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget



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IMPLEMENTATION OPTION 2

Make full fee effective July 1, 2024, as approved by the City Council last year.



- Needed project improvements and staff hiring can take place sooner
- Project focus areas and prioritizations will still be driven by the Stormwater Master Plan
- Consideration of other fee increases in the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget



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QUESTIONS?