



Memorandum

TO: Lee D. Garrity, City Manager
FROM: Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager
DATE: September 12, 2017
SUBJECT: Information – Supplemental Information on the Stormwater Management Program

Office of the
City Manager

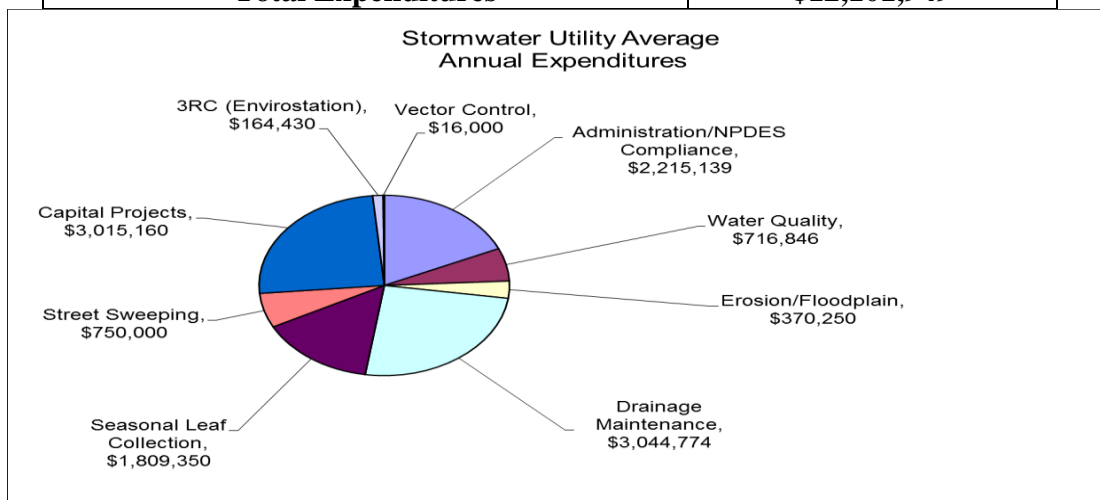
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At the August 15, 2017 meeting of the Public Works Committee information was requested on the average annual expenditures of the City’s Stormwater Management Fund as well as private property drainage assistance programs of other municipalities. This memorandum outlines the average annual expenditures of the Stormwater Management Fund as well as the results of a benchmarking study to determine the private property drainage assistance programs of other medium and large municipalities in North Carolina.

Breakdown of Average Annual Expenditures of the Stormwater Management Fund

Stormwater Utility Average Annual Expenditures	
Activity	Expenditures
Administration/NPDES Compliance	\$2,215,139
Water Quality	\$716,846
Erosion/Floodplain	\$370,250
Drainage Maintenance	\$3,044,774
Seasonal Leaf Collection	\$1,809,350
Street Sweeping	\$750,000
Capital Projects	\$3,015,160
3RC (Envirostation)	\$164,430
Vector Control	\$16,000
Total Expenditures	\$12,101,949



Benchmarking Study of Private Property Drainage Assistance Policies

The following table outlines if the community maintains the drainage system on privately owned property and if a private property drainage assistance the policy exists:

Community **Do you maintain private drainage systems?** **If no, then is there an assistance policy?**

Charlotte	<p>Yes, the City of Charlotte does maintain drainage systems on private property. Storm Water Services receives hundreds of requests for service every year and must prioritize qualifying requests for Service in order to efficiently and effectively perform drainage system maintenance repairs. In order to qualify, a request for service must be contribute runoff from a publicly-maintained street and also be a qualifying storm water problem.</p> <p>The prioritization categories are as follows:</p> <p>Failing or collapsed City-maintained streets posing a threat to public safety receive the highest priority (“A”).</p> <p>Street flooding, living space flooding and sinkholes within 10 feet of a road or building posing a threat to public safety receive a high (“A”) priority.</p> <p>Crawlspace or garage flooding, sinkholes farther than 10 feet from a road or building and HVAC flooding receive a medium (“B”) priority.</p> <p>General repair problems, including channel/ditch/stream erosion and debris buildup are classified as low (“C”) priority.</p> <p>The City of Charlotte currently has a backlog in excess of 700 high and medium priority requests for service.</p>	<p>Yes. Storm Water Services has a policy where a property owner may share the cost of a project in order to speed its construction as follows:</p> <p><i>The property owner must pay one half of the total project cost, which includes but not limited to: design, permitting, mitigation and construction. The property owners’ share of the costs will be based on a cost estimate without adding staff’s work time, with one exception: 50% of the design cost of the project will be added to the property owners’ cost if the design is performed by an outside group.</i></p>
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Durham	<p>No, The City of Durham does not maintain privately owned drainage systems. However a cost share program exists. Prioritization of eligible requests shall be based on the severity of the problem, the cost, and the number of properties affected and shall be assessed using written criteria approved by the director. The determination as to the priority a drainage project located outside of city-owned rights-of-way receives shall be made by the director and this decision is not subject to appeal. The following priority categories shall be used, with priority A the highest priority:</p> <p><i>Priority A.</i> The condition of the drainage system affects the ability of the system to function under normal design conditions and causes structural impacts to an existing inhabited or occupied building or a public street, sidewalk, or other public pedestrian walkway. Examples include but are not limited to failed systems that cause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained street flooding; Living space flooding of residential structures; flooding of an occupied building constructed on a permanent foundation connected to utility services (electric, gas, water, sewer). <p><i>Priority B.</i> The condition of the drainage system poses an imminent threat of constituting a priority A project. Examples include but are not limited to failed systems that cause: Crawlspace flooding that has not affected the structure's integrity; flooding of attached garages to residential structures.</p>	<p>Yes, the following funding criteria and formulas apply: Single-family residential properties. The city will pay for 80 percent of the estimated project cost not to exceed \$20,000.00 per property per project. The owner shall pay the remaining cost.</p> <p>All other properties. The city will pay for 70 percent of the estimated project cost not to exceed \$35,000.00 per property per project. The owner shall pay the remaining cost.</p> <p>Stormwater utility funding for drainage assistance requests shall not exceed \$35,000.00 per property owner in a ten-year period.</p>
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Greensboro	No, Greensboro’s policy is that if it has “public” runoff in it, we address it. If it’s strictly “private” runoff (backyards, private parking lots, etc), we only give technical advice.	<p>No, drainage systems are classified into two main categories: public drainage and private drainage.</p> <p>Public drainage system is considered a system that receives runoff from publicly-owned facility/property (e.g. roads, parks, etc.), even if it includes connections from private drainage systems. Private drainage system is considered a system that receives runoff from a privately-owned facility/property (e.g. a private parking lot, building), or any catchment that is not publicly owned.</p> <p>City maintenance crews maintain only public drainage systems. The Operations and Maintenance section can offer advice and / or technical support to find solutions to your drainage problem as appropriate.</p>
High Point	No, High Point only maintains the drainage network within the public right-of way.	<p>Yes, High Point does assist property owners with storm drainage problems. Implementation of this program does not constitute acceptance of responsibility by the City for the existence of particular storm drainage problems; or acceptance of dedication, ownership, or future maintenance responsibility concerning any stream or ditch or any other area of private property.</p> <p>The City will perform the following work concerning streams and ditches on private property for the purpose of improving natural stormwater drainage: Clean out debris and obstructions to improve water flow, perform bank and slope</p>

		<p>stabilization, install pipe to contain flow</p> <p>Who Qualifies for the Program? The Stormwater Management Improvement Program is available to all property owners in the City of High Point.</p> <p>The site must receive stormwater from public streets or publicly owned land contributing to the flow of the pipe/channel. This program does not apply to new construction projects or for the maintenance of privately owned water quality devices.</p> <p>Program Criteria: for piping requests, the maximum size of any pipe installed shall be 42” RCP. Any site that requires a pipe size greater than 42” RCP will only be eligible if it meets the more stringent criteria of the City’s Capital Improvement Program.</p>
<p>Raleigh</p>	<p>No, Raleigh has always maintained that they are only responsible for the portion of the drainage system located within the ROW and that the portion on private property is the property owner’s responsibility (unless they can provide documentation that the City accepted maintenance responsibility). There are just a handful of situations from the distant past where Raleigh made improvements on private property without a disclaimer that we would not maintain those improvements. Such disclaimers are now standard practice.</p>	<p>Yes, only projects involving severe erosion, street flooding or structural flooding will be considered for City assistance. Approved projects shall be subject to the following funding formulas:</p> <p>Projects involving both street and structural flooding will be funded 100% by the City based on available City funding and priorities. Projects involving structural flooding will be funded using a cost-sharing formula of 85% City /15% property owner with a cap of \$5,000 for each property owner share using the least cost solution as determined by the City. Property owners may</p>

		<p>select other alternative solutions, but will be responsible for all costs in excess of 85% of the least cost alternative. Projects involving severe erosion will be funded using a cost-sharing formula of 80% City /20% property owner with a cap of \$5,000 for each property owner share using the least cost solution as determined by the City. Property owners may select other alternative solutions, but will be responsible for all costs in excess of 80% of the least cost alternative.</p>
Wilmington	<p>No, the City of Wilmington maintains the drainage system within our ROW as well as officially accepted or acquired easements on private property. These easements can be acquired through our capital improvement process or through our drainage maintenance easement policy. We have no cost sharing agreements with property owners. On capital projects, owners are compensated for the easements. On maintenance locations, easements that are not previously platted are donated to the city per our policy.</p>	<p>No, there is currently no private property drainage assistance policy in place.</p>