SC Surface Water Management District FAQs

What does the SC Surface Water Management District do for me? How does this benefit me?

The district was created as a way to address stormwater issues throughout Summit County. Fees collected in participating communities that voluntarily opt into the program will be used exclusively in that community to mitigate stormwater problems and to improve overall water quality.

What do I get for my $48?

Revenues will be earmarked for funding local and regional projects. The Summit County Engineer’s office will be administering the program and will be able to pass along low administrative costs for work performed in-house. The revenues collected will also serve as a funding source for maintenance of stormwater projects. In addition, revenues can be used to leverage the local share portion of grants from outside funding sources, such as EPA and Army Corps of Engineer grants for projects.

Will they help me with damage or clean up after a flood?

The surface water district was not designed to clean up private properties following a flood. That responsibility would fall on the individual property owner. Rather, district funds would be used to help mitigate flooding to avoid problems in the future.

What do they do with this money?

Fees collected are held by Summit County for the benefit of a particular community that elects to opt into the Surface Water District.

I have a raingarden, rain barrel, and/or my roof runoff goes into yard or cistern. Do I get a discount?

For residential properties, the only discounts available are for Homestead exemption and properties that are located in an assessed subdivision. Properties in either of these categories will receive a 25% discount on the monthly fee.

Why did the Trustees agree to this?

The decision to opt into the Engineer’s Surface Water Management District was multi-faceted. Recognizing the need to address stormwater problems, including flooding and damaged caused by erosion, the Board of Trustees spent considerable time evaluating several stormwater options. A local group continues to pursue the formation of a Watershed Conservancy District which, if created, could assess local residents and business for a period of two years to develop a plan and then impose a continuation fee to implement the plan. Nine communities are co-located in the Yellow Creek watershed and there’s no guarantee funds collected will be used for the benefit of any one particular community in the watershed.
What kind of projects will the money be used for? Can I suggest a project or need for a project?

Residents can make recommendations to the Engineer’s Office on stormwater projects, but only those that offer the broadest benefit to the community will be selected.

Who decides on projects to be done?

The Summit County Engineer’s Office, with input from Bath Township and any advisory groups, will select those stormwater projects that will offer the greatest benefit to the community.

I have commercial property. Can I request a re-assessment of my fee?

Commercial property fees are calculated on the basis of each 3,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface. Commercial property owners may request a recalculation of their stormwater fee, particularly if improvements to the site have been made that reduces the amount of impervious area.

What if the money is not used? Refund?

The money will be spent and no refunds are anticipated.

What if the District needs more money? Will the fees go up?

The Engineer’s Office will, in conjunction with the local community, evaluate the effectiveness of the program and the need for additional revenue for projects in the community. While the price of $4.00/month is the current rates, it’s possible this amount could change in the future.

I do not live in the Yellow Creek Watershed. Does my money go to my watershed?

The fees collected in Bath Township will be used for the benefit of the community, even if certain areas are outside the watershed area.

Questions regarding the Surface Water Management District should be addressed to the Summit County Engineer’s Office at 330-643-8010

Phone Option 1 – Questions concerning the stormwater fee

Phone Option 2 – General questions concerning the Surface Water Management District

Phone Option 3 – For business owners with questions on how fees are calculated.