

NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

residential stormwater fee credits

AN ESTABLISHED REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District** is joining more than 1,000 communities—including Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo—that have created user fees to support stormwater programs that can address these problems.

The inability to effectively deal with stormwater results in flooding, more pollution of our waterways, and erosion problems. Solving these problems can be difficult, since runoff from one community drains into another. A regional approach is needed.



What does the Sewer District's program do?

We will build projects and maintain streams and the large pipes that carry stormwater.*

We will expand watershed planning and floodplain management support to address regional drainage problems and provide technical expertise to communities to reduce flooding and stormwater pollution and develop green space.

And, we will coordinate educational programs that promote healthy watersheds and develop regional partnerships to address problems that cross community borders and boundaries.

* *The Sewer District's program focuses on large regional problems. Catch basins and small sewers will remain the responsibility of local communities.*

how fees are calculated:

A stormwater utility is based on the premise that the urban drainage system is a public system, similar to water or sanitary systems. When a demand is placed on these systems, the user pays.

Parking lots, rooftops, and driveways can't absorb water, so it moves quickly over these surfaces into nearby streams or sewers. A greater flow of water—i.e. a greater demand—is placed on the urban drainage system. So, the more paved (or "impervious") surfaces there are on one's property, the greater the user fee.

For residential properties of four units or fewer, the user fee is based on an **Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)** equal to 3,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface (such as roof and driveway). The rate for one (1) ERU is \$5.15 per month.

Residences are placed in one of three categories:

- **Tier 1 (less than 2,000 sq. ft.)**
- **Tier 2 (2,000 to 4,000 sq. ft.)**
- **Tier 3 (more than 4,000 sq. ft.)**

A Tier 1 house pays \$3.09 per month, a Tier 2 house pays \$5.15 per month, and a Tier 3 house pays \$9.27 per month.



**Roof + driveway
= 3,000 sq. ft. impervious surface
= 1 ERU**

The Sewer District offers **FINANCIAL INCENTIVES** for managing stormwater at the source, which reduces the regional costs of stormwater problems and encourages environmental stewardship.



individual residential property credits:

Sewer District customers can receive a reduction in their stormwater fee through credits, which are available to all residential properties with 4 or fewer units in one building (single home, duplex, etc. up to 4 units).

A flat reduction of 25% is offered to owner-occupied properties who implement a District-approved Stormwater Control Measure (SCM).^{*} These SCMs include:



RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are landscaped areas that are designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff from a roof or other impervious surface.

- At least 25% of a property's roof or an equivalent impervious surface area must drain to the rain garden.
- Rain garden must be sized according to worksheet in Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners.
- Overflows must be directed to appropriate outlets or areas.



ON-SITE STORMWATER STORAGE

Includes rain barrels, cisterns, rain bladders, or other storage devices approved by the District.

- 50% of the property's roof area must be connected to rain barrels that provide at least 40 gallons of storage per downspout, OR . . .
- Storage devices (cistern) must be sized to hold the runoff from 50% of the property's roof during a 1-inch rain storm.
- Must be covered to prevent mosquitoes.
- Must drain in no less than 24 hours and no more than 4 days, unless bigger than the minimum required storage.
- Overflows from storage must be directed to appropriate outlets or areas.

to apply:

Applicants must complete a one-page **General Application** and a one-page **Individual Residential Property Credit Application**, and include a sketch or a photo of their stormwater control measure. Applications are available at neorsd.org/stormwater or by calling Customer Service at 216.881.8247.



IMPERVIOUS SURFACE REDUCTION

Credit can be obtained if an applicant removes 500 sq. ft. or more of existing impervious (i.e. paved) surface and replaces it with a vegetated, pervious surface.



PERVIOUS PAVEMENT

Paving blocks, grid pavers, or pervious concrete can be used for driveways and patios with a stone reservoir underneath. The reservoir temporarily stores surface runoff before infiltrating it into the soil below.

- Credit can be obtained if the applicant has at least 1000 sq. ft. of pervious pavement.
- Must meet local building and zoning codes for driveways.
- Gravel driveways are not considered a type of pervious pavement.



VEGETATED FILTER STRIPS

Uniform strips of dense turf, meadow grasses, trees, or other vegetation with a minimum slope can treat the water quality of runoff from paved surfaces. In certain circumstances, a large lawn may meet these criteria.

- At least 50% of a property's roof must drain to the filter strip.
- Strip must be fully vegetated (grass, shrubs, trees, flowers, etc.
- Strip must be at least 50 ft. long, depending on slope of yard.

^{*} SCMs must meet all community standards and ordinances.

For more information, contact
our Watershed Team Leaders

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