

- **When did the fee go into effect?**
 - The Waco City Council approved the fee in November 2020 with the creation of the Drainage Utility. Implementation was delayed until October 1, 2021.
- **What is the drainage fee and why is it needed?**
 - A dedicated fee (cannot be spent elsewhere) that creates a revenue source for maintaining and improving the storm drain system and other stormwater program activities. State laws have allowed peer cities to implement this fee for a number of years.
- **How is the fee determined?**
 - Citizens pay proportional costs based on burden placed on storm drain systems. Stormwater burden is caused by increased run-off generated from impervious surface; the fee is based on the amount of impervious surface on the property owned.
- **What does impervious surface mean?**
 - A hard surface area, including sidewalk, driveways and rooftops, that either prevents or slows the entry of water into the soil causing water runoff to increase in flow and volume.
- **How is the fee be collected?**
 - The fee is included on the City's monthly water bill. If you do not receive a water bill from the City, a drainage only account will be created.
- **What if I don't want to pay the fee?**
 - The fee is included on your water bill; if you refuse to pay for this line item, your account will be considered past due and will be subject to disconnection where additional fees will apply.
- **Where is the money going?**
 - To create a dedicated funding source to replace and maintain a \$766 million system, some parts are over 100 years old. Maintenance will include piping, inlets, culverts, etc. and street sweeping, culvert cleaning. Also used to address areas with flooding concerns and fund compliance with State and Federal watershed permits.
- **What do I do if I feel my fee is not calculated correctly?**
 - To appeal, please fill out the appeal form and submit to the Watershed Protection customer service. During this process, you will still be required to pay.
- **How does the City know how much impervious cover is on my property?**
 - Data comes from McLennan County Appraisal District, aerial imagery and building permits
- **Are any properties exempt from the fee?**
 - Certain properties are exempt by State Law of City Ordinance. Exempt properties are:
 - State Property,

- County Property,
 - City Property,
 - Property owned by a school district,
 - Undeveloped property or property under construction but not released for occupancy,
 - Property owned by a religious organization exempt from taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code,
 - Cemeteries closed to new interments and not accepting new burials,
 - Public or private institutions of higher education,
 - Properties with private drainage controls capable of retaining all runoff from the 100-yr rainfall without discharging to the City's drainage system,
 - The fee is waived for non-exempt properties with less than 500 square feet of impervious cover.
- **Is there any way to reduce my fee?**
 - Yes, non-residential customers may receive credits for certain volunteer service or installing additional stormwater controls. Contact the Drainage Utility for more information.