

Our environment benefits

Reducing the effects of stormwater runoff – including contamination, erosion and pollution – will result in healthier waterways. Pinellas County's stormwater initiative will provide a higher level of service including more routine maintenance of the county's drainage system and development of detailed strategies for current and future flooding and stormwater pollution issues. By doing this in a proactive manner, citizens are less likely to experience flooding, and stormwater pollution will be reduced.

It's the right thing to do

By managing stormwater runoff, we help to maintain the quality of life Pinellas County already has in place today and far into the future.

It's federally mandated

The federal government mandates that local governments, like Pinellas County, implement a stormwater management program to improve water quality.

For more information

on what YOU can do to keep our waterways clean, our watersheds healthy or to report pollution, call the **Watershed Management Hotline** at **(727) 464-4425** or email us at watershed@pinellascounty.org.

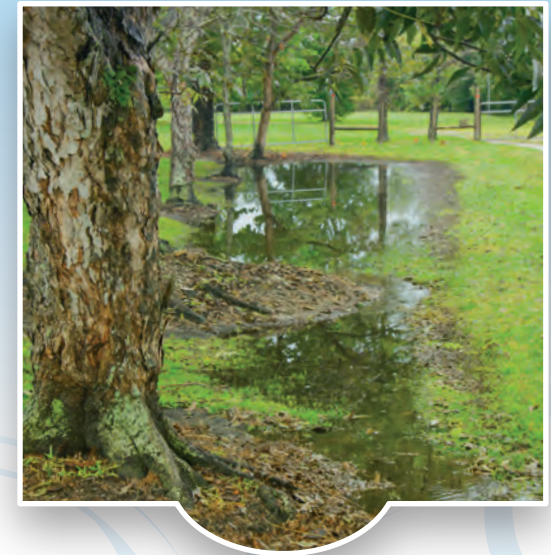


Pinellas County
Environment and Infrastructure
Watershed Management
(727) 464-4425

www.pinellascounty.org/environment



Pinellas County Surface Water & You



Preventing Pollution

What is **stormwater runoff**?



Stormwater runoff is the water that flows off of roofs, driveways, parking lots and other hard surfaces during rain storms. Rather than being absorbed into the ground, it flows into ditches, culverts, drainage pipes and directly into our local surface waters, such as ponds, lakes and streams, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Why should I care?

As stormwater runoff rushes along, it picks up pollutants and causes contamination, erosion and flooding. Stormwater runoff is not treated; it drains directly into creeks and streams and ends up in our lakes and drinking reservoirs.

What is a surface water assessment?

It is a user fee for stormwater services, similar to a fee for the availability of water or sewer service at your home or business. The county provides stormwater services to reduce flooding and improve water quality as well as monitor and restore the health of our aquatic resources.

The fee assessment is based on each property's impervious area, which includes any surface that does not allow water to soak into the ground (roofs, parking lots, roads, etc.).



Who does it affect?

It affects all property owners within unincorporated Pinellas County – including residents, businesses, churches and other non-profits.

It's fair to everyone

All properties within unincorporated Pinellas County that have impervious area must pay the fee. This solution is equitable to all because each household or business pays only for its impervious area.

Who else has this type of fee?

At the time of this publication, there are 15 other municipalities in Pinellas County that currently charge some type of stormwater management fee. Some entities charge it annually on their tax bill like Pinellas County. Other cities charge monthly on the water bill, typically labeled *stormwater fee*. Remember, management of stormwater is federally mandated, so all local governments are responsible for meeting the requirements of clean water for their citizens and the environment. To find out more, visit: www.pinellascounty.org/surfacewater



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