

Storm Water Fee System in Augusta, Maine

Presented by:

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Augusta Sanitary District – General Information

- **Responsibilities**
 - Collection & transportation of wastewater
 - Storm water system for City of Augusta
 - Maintain – operate secondary wastewater treatment plant
 - Treat wastewater from 4 surrounding communities
- **Size of System**
 - 115 miles of sewer mains
 - 15 wastewater pump stations
 - 38 mile of storm water mains
 - 3,281 catch basins

Current Charges

- **Catch Basins**
 - Separate (Discharge to Natural Water Course) - \$220/yr. (2,772 basins)
 - Combined (Discharge into Combined Sewer System) - \$1,000/yr. (503 basins)
 - Combined with Detention (holding basins to shave peak) - \$750/yr. (6 basins)
- **Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) - \$10.32/unit/quarter**

Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)

- **Reason Program was Developed**
 - Sewer Users should not have to carry entire burden of storm water generated issues
 - Way to spread cost to non-sewered customers (community betterment)
 - Create additional revenue for CSO mitigation
- **What are ERU's**
 - Fees for storm water based on impervious area of property (private and public) – impervious area includes roofs, driveways, parking lots, etc.
- **How Calculated**
 - All residential property evaluated using tax assessor data to determine average impervious area (for Augusta it is 2,700 sq. ft. per residential property)
 - All other (commercial, public, governmental) evaluated using tax assessor data to determine impervious area of each

- Who is Charged
 - All property with a sewer account (connected to City sewer)
 - All property that abuts a City Street that has an improved storm drain system (catch basins and underground pipe)
 - This includes residential, non-profits, State, Federal, Commercial, Industrial
 - Included City streets up to 6/30/04
 - City Streets generate large volumes of storm water
 - Insure all property outside compact area pay something for storm water (CSO) improvements (City collected funds via taxes and then paid ASD via utility billing)
 - Effective 6/30/04 at request of City charge for impervious area of City Streets will no longer be charged

- Advantages – Disadvantages
 - Advantages
 - Larger customer base to spread out costs
 - Everyone pays a share – not just direct users
 - Opportunity to educate public regarding impacts of CSO's/ storm water
 - Disadvantages
 - Lot of upfront analysis required
 - Constant upgrading data base
 - Very unpopular

- Lessons Learned
 - Take a year to implement
 - Educate – Educate – Educate
 - Verify and test data for all situations