



CITY OF TAMPA

Stormwater Utility Funding Frequently Asked Questions

2025

1. Why am I receiving two Notices for the Stormwater Assessment?

Because there are two types of Stormwater Assessments: A Service Assessment for developed properties located within the City of Tampa, and an Improvement Assessment for those properties located in the Central & Lower Basins of the City.

2. Why are the rates different on my Notices?

The Service Assessment rate is \$82 per ESU. This pays for operations and maintenance of the existing stormwater system. Services include street sweeping, pond maintenance, pipeline system cleaning, outfall cleaning, ditch maintenance, and miscellaneous micro-projects ancillary to maintenance activities. The Stormwater Improvement Assessment is \$89.55 per ESU, and it pays for capital improvements associated with the stormwater system in the Central and Lower Improvement Area. Improvements include system capacity increases, treatment facilities such as ponds, ditches, and baffle boxes, new pipelines and box culverts, pump stations, backflow valves, inlets, curb and gutter systems, as well as roadway regrading that improves flow patterns.

3. Why am I receiving a Notice of increase if I made no changes to my property?

A notice is sent because there was a change. It may be that the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser has picked up a change to the property, or an impervious area previously not identified is exposed. For single-family homes, you can check with Hillsborough County Property Appraiser (813) 272-6100 and see what has changed on your property identification card since last year. On non-residential properties, it can be that the tree canopy has changed, and the impervious area is now exposed and accounted for.

4. I do not pay taxes on my property, so why am I receiving a bill for this?

The Stormwater Service Assessment applies to all developed properties, regardless of exemptions. Tax-exempt properties, such as churches, government-owned, and not-for-profit organizations, as well as private owners who have a tax-exempt status, will still receive the stormwater charge on the non-ad valorem portion of their tax bill. Government-owned properties are directly billed.

5. I received a discount for early payment of my taxes. Will I receive the same discount for my stormwater charges?

Yes. The same discounts that apply to ad valorem taxes will also apply to the stormwater charges collected on the tax bill.

6. I rent out my property. Should the tenant pay the stormwater charges, or will I have to pay them as the property owner?

Like property taxes, stormwater charges are billed to property owners only; each property owner or landlord will have to determine if or how a tenant should share in the stormwater charge costs.

7. What if I believe my assigned ESU are incorrect?

If your property is a single-family home, check your gross square footage assigned by the Property Appraiser. You can find that information at the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser website here:

<https://www.hcpafl.org/>. Compare the total Gross Square footage assigned to this Tier assignment for single-family.

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| Small | Gross Sq Ft Area is 100 to 1,300 | = .61 ESU |
| Medium | Gross Sq Ft Area is 1,301 to 2,200 | = 1.00 ESU |
| Large | Gross Sq Ft Area is 2,201 to 4,000 | = 1.66 ESU |
| Very Large | Gross Sq Ft Area is 4,000 + | = 2.82 ESU |

Please report any errors to the Stormwater Division by telephone at (813) 274- 3101.

8. What if I believe the Property Appraiser has my gross square footage incorrect?

You may report that to the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser at (813) 272-6100.

Only the Property Appraiser's Office can correct its data. If they do change your property's data, we will adjust our billing to reflect that correction.

9. If my name or address on the Tax bill is incorrect, how do I get it corrected?

If information on your tax bill is incorrect, contact the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser at (813) 272-6100.

10. What are Mitigation Credits, and how can I get them?

Mitigation credits may reduce the number of ESUs assigned to a property. If approved, mitigation credit may be applied to a developed property's ESU amount, in consideration of a properly functioning and permitted stormwater system, or the parcel owner contributes to the maintenance of a private system that provides stormwater treatment and attenuation for runoff from public right-of-way. If a parcel meets the requirements for a mitigation credit, then the mitigation credit is applied to both assessments. You can access information on Mitigation Credits at the City of Tampa Website

<https://www.tampa.gov/mobility/stormwater/programs/assessment-mitigation>. Or contact the City's Mobility Department by calling (813) 274 -3101.

11. My property does not qualify for Mitigation Credits. But I do not think the assigned ESU amount is correct. How can I have this reviewed?

Resolution 2003-931, Article V, Section 5.01 addresses Petitions. A Petition may be submitted for the review of the number of Net ESUs assigned to a tax parcel. The petition must be made to the Director by the owner of the tax parcel, or the owner's authorized

agent. The petition shall be in writing and set forth, in detail, the grounds upon which an adjustment is sought. The petition must be filed with the Director within 30 days of the notice required by Section 21-127 of the City Code and shall be reviewed within 30 days of the filing date. You can access the full resolution and the required procedure to file one here: <https://www.tampa.gov/document/resolution-2003-937-27616>.

12. I am elderly and on a fixed income. Are there any programs to help me with this bill?

The City of Tampa's Hardship Program for the Improvement Assessment targets the elderly, disabled, and disabled Veteran homeowners who reside on their homesteaded property. The City-sponsored program would pay the annual Improvement Assessment for those properties and owners that qualify.

You may access more information at the following website: https://www.tampa.gov/tss-stormwater/programs/assessment/hardship_program. Or you may contact the City's Housing and Community Development Division by telephone at (813) 274-7957 and leave a message for one of their counselors to return your call.

13. Where can I report flooding or drainage issues?

City of Tampa Mobility Department at (813) 274- 3101.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR STORMWATER UTILITY ASSESSMENT WEBPAGE:

www.tampagov.net/tss-stormwater/programs/assessment.