COBB COUNTY

STORMWATER CREDIT MANUAL

Administered by

Cobb County Water System
Stormwater Management Division

Effective June 1, 2026

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SECTION 1

General Information

The Stormwater Credit Manual, initially approved by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners on November 20, 2025, is effective June 1, 2026. Stormwater service fee credits are offered as an incentive to customers for being good stewards of the Cobb County stormwater resources. The benefit to customers is a reduction in the stormwater utility bill. The Stormwater Credit Manual outlines the criteria and procedures for residential and non-residential customers to obtain and maintain a stormwater credit(s) for the property account.

Stormwater credits are only applicable for County approved stormwater control facilities, best management practices (BMPs), activities, and programs that are properly designed, constructed, implemented, and maintained in accordance with this manual. Property owners should note that local ordinances and/or homeowner association regulations may not allow the installation of some types of stormwater BMPs. Before proceeding with design or installation of any BMP, property owners should check to make certain that their actions will not violate any local requirements.

The goal of this credit program is to encourage better site design and property owner action. Benefits are summarized in the following list of objectives:

- Reduce the impact of development caused by impervious areas,
- Provide public education and outreach related to stormwater management,
- Promote activities designed to improve water quality,
- Diminish environmental impacts, and
- Reduce the County's maintenance burden.

With Board of Commissioners approval, changes may be made to the Credit Manual to reflect changes in stormwater regulations, emerging stormwater treatment technologies, and Cobb County's goals and objectives. In some instances, changes to the Credit Manual may cause a property to be ineligible for credits they were once receiving under a previous version. In these cases, the Water System may continue to grant credits to the property owner depending on the situation.

Customers with questions about any of the credits offered or the applicability to their situation or general stormwater funding information may contact the Water System's Stormwater Management Division at 770-419-6205 or SWFunding@cobbcounty.gov.

1.1 Definitions

Credit: A conditional reduction allowed against the stormwater service fee charged to an individual parcel based upon the technical requirements and the design and performance standards contained in the Cobb County Stormwater Credit Manual, as it may be updated or amended from time to time.

Customer: The owner of a developed parcel(s) in and any person, company, or other entity contracted to pay for stormwater services on the owner's behalf.

Developed parcel: A parcel with 500 square feet or more of impervious surface.

Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (GSMM): A technical guidance document governing stormwater management design, construction, and long-term maintenance activities in Georgia. The latest edition of the GSMM can be found online at https://atlantaregional.org/natural-resources/water/georgia-stormwater-management-manual/.

Impervious surfaces: Any paved, hardened, graveled, compacted, or structural surfaces, including, but not limited to, buildings, dams, decks, driveways, parking areas, patios, streets, tennis courts, walkways or other structures which prevent or impede the infiltration of stormwater into the soil.

Low impact parcel: A land parcel that has reduced land disturbance and minimal impervious surfaces.

Membership Based Service Organization: An organization whose membership gathers on a regular basis and has the unique ability to partner with the Water System and support our mission in Watershed Stewardship and Education.

Non-residential: A classification in which the customer is the owner, owner's agent, or occupant of a commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional property; a property or community with multi-family dwelling units; a property or community with an attached single-family dwelling unit served by a master water meter; a mobile home park; or any other properties not included in the residential definition below.

Parcel: A designated lot, tract, or area of land established by plat, subdivision, or as otherwise permitted by law, to be separately owned, used, developed, or built upon.

Private stormwater management systems and facilities: Those natural and manmade channels, swales, ditches, rivers, streams, creeks, branches, reservoirs, ponds, drainageways, inlets, catch basins, pipes, headwalls, storm drains, lakes and other physical works, properties and improvements which transfer, control, convey or otherwise influence the movement of stormwater runoff or water quality that are not public.

Residential: a classification in which the customer is an owner or occupant of a detached single-family dwelling unit or an owner or occupant of an attached single-family dwelling unit served by an individual water meter. In addition, the principal use of the property shall be residential.

Stormwater best management practices (BMPs): Practices defined in the GSMM which provide the best available and reasonable physical, structural, managerial, or behavioral activity to reduce or eliminate pollutant loads and/or concentrations leaving the site. BMPs can be structural or non-structural.

Stormwater service fee: The periodic service charge imposed by the County to a parcel of developed land for providing the stormwater management services and stormwater management systems and facilities.

Undeveloped: A parcel with less than 500 square feet of impervious surface.

Water quality: The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of a body of water.

Watershed – The geographic region which drains toward a central collector such as a stream, river, or lake. Large watersheds may be composed of smaller "sub-watersheds", each of which contributes runoff to different locations that ultimately combine at a common delivery point.

1.2 Summary of Stormwater Service Fee Credits

The following table summarizes stormwater service fee credits that are available to residential and non-residential customers. Specific details on these activities and the application procedures can be found in Section 2 of this Stormwater Credit Manual. The maximum total stormwater service fee credit most residential or non-residential customers can receive is 40%. Customers who qualify for the Exceeds GSMM & Cobb Development Standards credit (as defined in Section 2.2) can receive an additional 10% credit, for a maximum credit of 50%.

Credit Activity	Eligible Properties		Credit Term Year(s)	Maximum Prorated User Credit	Annual Certification Required
	Residential	Non-Residential			
Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (GSMM) Unified Stormwater Criteria					
Runoff Reduction Volume & Water Quality	X	X	5	10%	Yes
Channel Protection	X	X	5	10%	Yes
Overbank Flood Protection	X	X	5	10%	Yes
Extreme Flood Protection	X	X	5	10%	Yes
Exceed GSMM & Cobb Development Standards	X	X	5	10%	Yes
Septic Tank Maintenance	X	X	5	10%	No
Impervious Surface Reduction		X	5	40%	No
NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit Compliance		X	5	10%	Yes
Low Impact Parcel	X	X	5	15%	No
Watershed Improvement Project	X	X	5	10%	No
Watershed Stewardship	X	X	1	10%	No
Watershed Education	X	X	1	10%	No
Adopt-A-Pond	X		5	10%	Yes

1.3 Stormwater Service Fee Credit Policies

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners establishes the following general policies regarding the consideration and approval of stormwater credits:

- Credits are only applied to eligible properties that meet applicable criteria as set forth in the Credit Manual and approved by the Water System.

- A stormwater service fee is assessed on an individual water and/or sewer account or a stormwater-only account. Credit applications must be made by the entity responsible for payment of that account (account holder) or the property owner. If the account holder changes, the new entity must re-apply for the credit with the Water System, whether the term has expired or is still active. The new applicant may be able to rely on the information from a previous credit application package, but it will be the responsibility of the applicant to verify the information within the submitted credit application package.

- Application for a stormwater credit for existing facilities may be submitted to the Water System at any time. Upon approval, credit will be applied to the account within 45 days.

- Applications for a stormwater credit associated with new development (or redevelopment) sites may be submitted once the parcel has been recorded; the BMP has been constructed, inspected, and approved by the Water System; and a maintenance agreement has been recorded.

- Any property issued a notice of noncompliance or notice of violation by Cobb County for stormwater issues or by the Health Department for septic tank issues shall have stormwater credits voided and may not be eligible for a stormwater credit for up to five years. Eligibility may be reinstated only If the property owner responds timely with a responsible and adequate plan of action to fully restore the issues brought up by the notice of noncompliance or notice of violation. The Water System has the right to make maintenance inspections under Cobb County Code Section 50-162.

- The Water System may, at its discretion, undertake periodic inspections of properties receiving credits to ensure compliance with the Credit Manual. If these practices are found to be intact and functional, the credit will remain in effect. If the practice is not functional or not being maintained, the Water System has the authority to void the credit on the next billing cycle. Before a credit is re-instated, a property owner must reapply for the credit as outlined in this Credit Manual.

- The term of the credit varies depending upon the credit type. As such, the Water System may require an annual certification from the applicant that the approved credit continues to meet the criteria outlined in the credit application and in the credit manual. Failure of the property owner to certify his/her credit as required in the Credit Manual could result in credit revocation. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure compliance with the annual certification requirement.

1.4 Stormwater Service Fee Credit Application Procedures

All credits available require an application, and some of the credit applications require engineering analysis to demonstrate and verify credit eligibility. The credits associated with engineering analysis are identified in Section 2. The credit application is included In Appendix A and is available on the Water System website for download. The following is an overview of the stormwater service fee application procedures that a customer should follow to obtain and maintain credits.

- Obtain a copy of this Credit Manual from the Water System and determine what, if any, credits the account holder may be eligible to receive.

- If required by the credit, retain a Georgia Professional Engineer to perform engineering analyses and/or a Georgia Land Surveyor to perform site surveys.

- The account holder seeking the credit must submit a complete application package to the Water System's Stormwater Management Division for review, based on procedures outlined in the Credit Manual. The completed credit application must have all sections appropriately filled out and all required supporting documentation attached.

- Upon receipt of the credit application, the Water System shall review the package for completeness and establish whether the request adheres to the applicable criteria in the credit manual. Incomplete application packages will not be considered by the Water System and will be returned to the applicant for completion and/or revision.

- The applicant will be notified within 60 days of receipt of the application package whether the request is approved or denied. If the credit application is approved, the applicant will be notified of approval and of the expected billing cycle on which the credit will appear. If the credit application is not approved, the Water System will provide an explanation as to why the credit application was not approved or request additional information.

- The Water System may elect to perform an inspection of the applicant's/property owner's site and proposed activity or to review the structural and/or non-structural practices being implemented, to ensure conformance with the credit criteria.

- Approved credits will result in a corresponding reduction in the stormwater fee.

- Stormwater credits expire automatically at the end of the credit term. Applicants wishing to reapply should do so at least 30 days before the expiration of credits. It will be the responsibility of the account holder to renew the credit at the appropriate time by resubmitting a new credit application and required documentation for review and approval by the Water System.

SECTION 2

Available Credits and Eligibility

This section explains the available stormwater service fee credits, eligibility requirements, and required documentation that should be submitted along with the stormwater service fee credit application. Applicants should follow the credit application procedures outlined in Section 1.4 and provide the required documentation as specified in this section for each credit being requested.

2.1 GSMM Unified Stormwater Sizing Criteria

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Non-Residential

Residential and non-residential customers with a privately maintained on-site structural stormwater facility that is designed to meet current Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (Volume 2, 2016) requirements and Cobb County Development Standards may be eligible for a stormwater service fee credit. Stormwater facilities in residential developments that have been dedicated or deeded to the County are not eligible to receive this credit.

The Unified Stormwater Sizing Criteria, as defined in the GSMM is an integrated approach in addressing stormwater runoff impacts associated with both water quality and quantity issues. Each the sizing criterion is intended to be used in conjunction with others to address overall stormwater runoff impacts. When used as an overall set of criteria, the unified stormwater sizing criteria control and manage the entire range of stormwater runoff events from the smallest storms to the largest storm events (i.e. the 100-year storm).

To be eligible for this credit, customers must demonstrate that the facility is in good working condition and functioning as designed. Water System staff may perform an on-site inspection to verify the current condition before approving credits. Credits will be granted in increments of 10% for each treatment level/criteria outlined below, to a maximum of 40% for a period of five (5) years.

- Runoff Reduction/Water Quality Volume –10% credit if stormwater facilities are designed to retain and reduce the runoff for the first 1.0 inch of rainfall, or to the maximum extent practicable. If the entire 1.0-inch runoff reduction cannot be achieved, the remaining runoff from the 1.2-inch rainfall must be treated to reduce average annual post-development TSS loadings by 80%.

- Channel Protection –10% credit if stormwater facilities provide extended detention of the 1-year storm event, released over a period of 24 hours to reduce bankfull flows and protect downstream channels from erosive velocities and unstable conditions.

- Overbank Flood Protection –10% credit if stormwater facilities provide peak discharge control of the 2-year, 5-year, 10-year, 25-year, and 50-year storm events such that the post-development peak rate does not exceed the predevelopment rate.

  **GSMM requires peak discharge control of the 25-year storm event. Cobb County Development Standards additionally requires peak discharge control of the 2, 5, 10, 50-year storm events.*

- Extreme Flood Protection - 10% credit if stormwater facilities provide peak discharge control of the 100-year storm event such that the post-development peak rate does not exceed the pre-development rate.

All developments, designed and permitted after January 1, 2021, are required to install on-site stormwater facilities that meet the current GSMM requirements and Cobb County Development Standards for runoff reduction/water quality, channel protection, overbank flood protection, and extreme flood protection. These developments are eligible to receive the maximum 40% reduction in stormwater service fee provided they are being maintained and are functioning properly. Facilities constructed prior to this time that do not meet the current requirements in all four criteria are eligible to earn a 10% credit for each level that is met provided they are being maintained and are functioning properly.

To obtain this credit, the property owner or customer is required to submit a complete credit application and additional information as outlined below. Property owners' associations or homeowner's associations that own eligible structural stormwater facilities should contact the Water System's Stormwater Management Division to determine if the association members, or common development customers, are also eligible for a credit. For the purposes of the credit, the stormwater facility must be located on a parcel that is platted within the common development and owned by the association. If a credit is to be applied to individual customer accounts for association members, a list of addresses must be provided with the credit application.

Required documentation:

(On-site structural facilities designed and permitted January 2021 or later)

- Complete credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- Documentation that each facility has been inspected and maintained in accordance with the Maintenance Agreement. This shall include documentation of any maintenance performed within the previous 12 months, date stamped photographs, and the most recent inspection check list or report for each facility.

  **The Water System should already have the hydrology report and Maintenance and Access Easement Agreements on file for newer developments but may request copies if needed.*

(On-site structural facilities designed and permitted prior to January 2021)

- Complete credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- A hydrology report (or comparable document) prepared, signed, and sealed by a Georgia Professional Engineer with the following.
- As-built volume certification with a stage storage table provided by a qualified professional within the previous 12 months.
- Date stamped photographs documenting current conditions of all stormwater facilities.
- Recorded Maintenance and Access Easement Agreement(s), if not already on file.
- If a proprietary device is used to meet the Water Quality requirement criteria, provide, at a minimum:
  - vendor/manufacturer design data
  - installation location(s)
  - recommended maintenance activities

  - expected useful life, and replacement costs, as applicable.
- For HOA and property association owned facilities, a list of addresses that should receive the credit, if applicable.

Credit Retention: Any credit allowed is conditioned upon (1) continued compliance with performance standards, as stated in the GSMM and Cobb County Development Standards, as may be updated or amended from time to time; and (2) continued operation and maintenance in accordance with the Maintenance Agreement. The Water System may inspect the facility at any time and may revoke the credit for non-compliance with these conditions.

In addition, the applicant shall submit an annual report to the Stormwater Management Division that includes date stamped photos to show current conditions, copies of most recent inspection checklists or reports as required in the Maintenance Agreement, and documentation of any maintenance activities performed during previous 12 months. Failure to make the required submittals could result in forfeiture of the stormwater service fee credit.

Credit Renewal: The applicant may reapply for the credit every five (5) years after the initial approval by submitting a new credit application. If site conditions have not changed, the applicant shall submit an updated as-built volume certification with a stage storage table, date stamped photos to show current conditions, copies of most recent inspection checklists or reports as required in the Maintenance Agreement, and documentation of any maintenance activities performed during previous 12 months. If significant changes to the site layout and/or site stormwater controls have occurred, the updated design should be submitted to document compliance with applicable standards, along with the previously mentioned items.

Additional Note:
Existing facilities that do not meet current design standards* may consider retrofitting the stormwater facility, if feasible. Voluntary retrofitting of an existing facility may qualify a customer to receive a full or partial service fee credit. Property owners interested in retrofitting a stormwater facility should contact the Stormwater Management Division to discuss the process for determining feasibility and permitting.

** Current design standards as required by Cobb County code and the latest edition of the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual.*

2.2 Exceed GSMM & Cobb Development Standards

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Non-Residential

Residential and non-residential customers with a privately maintained on-site structural stormwater facility that is designed to exceed current Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (Volume 2, 2016) requirements and Cobb Development Standards may be eligible for up to a 10% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of five (5) years. This is the only credit offered in which a customer may be eligible to receive a 50% stormwater service fee credit, provided that all treatment levels/criteria have been met as outlined in Section 2.1.

Customers wishing to apply for this credit may contact the Stormwater Management Division prior to applying for this credit to discuss eligibility. These circumstances may be unique and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Some examples of exceeding GSMM and development standards include, but are not limited to:

- Water Quality – 10% credit for providing 20% additional runoff reduction volume (if hydrology report shows no negative downstream impact)
- Channel Protection – Up to a 10% credit for exceeding Cobb County stream buffer requirements
    - 10% credit for providing an additional 50 feet
    - 5% credit for providing an additional 25 feet
    - 10% credit for providing at least a 200-foot buffer on Sweetwater Creek
- Overbank and Extreme Flood Protection – 10% credit for providing detention for off-site runoff while still meeting pre-development peak rate.

Required documentation:

- Complete credit application as outlined in Section 1.4
- All items as required in Section 2.1. The hydrology report must demonstrate that the facility exceeds at all treatment level/criteria as outlined Section 2.1

Credit Retention: Refer to Section 2.1 *Credit Retention*

Credit Renewal: Refer to Section 2.1 *Credit Renewal*

2.3 Septic Tank Maintenance

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Non-Residential

Residential and non-residential customers with septic systems may be eligible to receive a 10% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of up to five (5) years if the system is functioning properly and the tank is pumped out on a regular basis (a minimum of once every five years). A licensed waste hauler must perform the pumping of the septic tank. It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm and obtain, if required, documentation that the hauler has secured the required State and/or local permits and license to haul and dispose of septic wastes.

Customers wishing to apply for this credit must submit documentation in the form of a receipt or invoice for tank pumping from a licensed hauler of septic wastes. The receipt should be submitted within twelve (12) months of the pumping of the septic tank. Any unclaimed years between the date of the pumping and the date of the credit application will not be eligible for backdated credit. These unclaimed years also cannot be used to extend the credit beyond its expiration date which is set at 5 years after the date the septic tank was pumped.

Required documentation:

- Complete credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- Dated invoice or receipt showing the septic tank was pumped. The invoice should contain the following:
    - the name of the company performing the work
    - the date the pumping was performed
    - the property address where the maintenance was performed.

Credit Retention: To maintain eligibility for the credit during the five (5) year credit term, the applicant shall continue to maintain the septic tank in good working order.

Credit Renewal: The applicant may reapply for the credit every five years after the initial approval by submitting a new Stormwater Credit Application and a newly dated invoice showing the septic tank was pumped again.

2.4 Impervious Surface Reduction

Eligible Customer Classes: Non-Residential

Non-residential customers may be eligible to receive a stormwater service fee credit by reducing the amount of impervious surface area on the parcel. This credit is offered to encourage customers to reduce stormwater runoff and lessen the burden on the public stormwater management system.

A minimum of 10% impervious area (of the total impervious area) must be removed to be eligible for the credit. The credit applied will be equal to the percentage of impervious surface area removed and replaced with greenspace, up to a maximum credit of 40%. If the impervious surface is removed and replaced with a pervious surface such as pervious pavers, the credit applied will be equal to 60% of the amount of impervious surface area removed.

Example:

- Customer A removes 20% of impervious surface and replaces it with greenspace – credit applied is 20%
- Customer B removes 20% of impervious surface and replaces it with pervious pavers – credit applied is 20 x 60% = 12%

The credit will be applied to the newly calculated stormwater fee for a period of five (5) years and is non-renewable. Additionally, the fee calculation will be revised based on the reduced impervious area to represent the new conditions resulting in a reduced fee going forward provided the impervious area is not increased in the future.

To ensure credit eligibility, non-residential customers who wish to apply for this credit shall submit a complete credit application and all required documentation outlined below **prior to beginning demolition of any parking areas or other impervious surfaces**. The applicant is responsible for acquiring any necessary permits required by Community Development. Once the request has been reviewed and approved by the Water System, the applicant shall proceed with the impervious surface removal. Following establishment of the permanent vegetation or installation of pervious pavers, an as-built survey of the final conditions shall be submitted to the Water System. The newly calculated fee and credit will be applied within 45 days of receiving the as-built survey.

Required documentation (prior to impervious surface removal):

- Complete credit application as outlined in Section 1.4 .
- A site map (one can be printed from http://gis.cobbcountyga.gov) showing the entire parcel and all impervious areas on the property.
- A sketch of the proposed reduction in impervious surface area listing the square footage to be removed.
- Copies of any permits or approval obtained from Community Development, if required for the project.

Required documentation (after impervious surface removal):

- As-built survey of the final conditions, stamped by a qualified professional, unless otherwise approved by the Water System.

Credit Retention: To maintain eligibility for the credit, during the five (5) year credit term, the applicant shall not add impervious area to the property.

Credit Renewal: Non-renewable

2.5 NDPES Industrial Stormwater General Permit Compliance

Eligible Customer Classes: Non-Residential

Non-residential customers may be eligible to receive a 10% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of five (5) years, by complying with applicable National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Industrial Stormwater General Permit requirements for industrial facilities. Implementation of the applicable compliance requirements assists the Water System in addressing water impairment issues at the source prior to discharge into the Cobb County drainage system and/or State waters.

Customers who wish to apply for this credit must demonstrate coverage under the NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit for their Standard Industry Code (SIC) and compliance with all applicable requirements (i.e., development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3)).

For information regarding NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit compliance requirements, please go to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division website or the following link: https://epd.georgia.gov/forms-permits/watershed-protection-branch-forms-permits/storm-water-forms/npdes-industrial-storm

Required documentation:

- Completed credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- Contact Information: name of company, facility address, facility point of contact, contact's title, contact's e-mail and/or phone number.
- Copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3).
- Copy of the current NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent (NOI).
- Copy of the annual report of compliance submitted to the State.
- Certification by the responsible party/permit holder that the NOI is current and the SWPPP is being implemented.
- Executed Right-of-Entry Agreement.

Credit Retention: To maintain eligibility for the credit during the five (5) year credit term, the applicant shall send a copy of an annual report of compliance to the Stormwater Management Division each year. Failure to make the required submittals could result in forfeiture of the stormwater service fee credit.

Credit Renewal: The applicant may reapply for the credit every five years after the initial approval by submitting a new credit application and providing updated copies of all required documentation.

2.6 Low Impact Parcel

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Non-Residential

There are several areas in the County where parcels are relatively large and the amount of impervious area, in comparison to the total lot size, is relatively small. These parcels generally have reduced runoff impacts since most of the parcel is in an undeveloped or low impact condition.

Residential and non-residential customers who can demonstrate that their parcel complies with the "low impact" development provisions presented herein may be eligible to receive a 15% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of five (5) years. Low impact parcel requirement requirements are included in the following table.

Stormwater Service Fee Credit Criteria for Low-Impact Parcels	
Parameter	Requirements
Total Impervious Area (%)	Must be less than 10% of the total parcel area
Total Site Area (Acres)	Must be greater than 2 acres

Impervious surface area includes the structure, driveway, parking, sidewalk (do not include sidewalk in the County right-of-way), pool deck, patio, shed, and any other accessory impervious areas. Gravel areas are also considered impervious. Adjacent undeveloped properties owned by the same person or family may be included in the calculation of percent impervious. Each residential or non-residential customer who wishes to apply for this credit shall be responsible for calculating the percentage of impervious area on the parcel(s) as follows:

- **% impervious surface area**: Total area (square footage) of impervious on the parcel, divided by the total area (square footage) of the parcel.

(% impervious = Total Impervious Area / Total Parcel Area)

- Applicant may use the County's impervious area and parcel area data for calculation if no changes have been made to parcel since the County last collected impervious data. Go to https://geo-cobbcountyga.hub.arcgis.com/pages/all.

Required documentation:

- Completed credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- Calculation of % impervious surface area.
- If changes have been made to parcel since the County last collected impervious data, provide a site map showing the entire parcel and all impervious areas on the property.

Credit Retention: To maintain eligibility for the credit, during the five (5) year credit term, the applicant shall not add impervious area to the property.

Credit Renewal: The applicant may reapply for the credit every five years after the initial approval by submitting a new credit application. If site conditions have not changed since the original application, submit the application

and a signed statement that no impervious surface has been added since the original application. If changes have been made to the site, the site map and calculation of impervious surface should be updated and submitted along with the application.

2.7 Watershed Improvement Project

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Non-Residential

Residential and non-residential customers may be eligible for a 10% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of five (5) years, by demonstrating participation in a watershed improvement project initiated by the Water System, or other State and federal agencies. This credit is offered as a one-time incentive for property owners to grant access to their property for construction of approved projects aimed to improve water quality, stabilize streambanks, and/or provide flood mitigation.

Customers wishing to apply for this credit must show participation in an approved project through the donation of property and/or providing any necessary easements. This credit may also be available to property owners who grant the Water System an easement on their parcel so that the County can perform necessary maintenance and repair of existing public stormwater management systems or facilities on a neighboring property.

Required documentation:

- Complete credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- A copy the appropriate legal documents, such as executed deeds, easements, and/or agreements.

Credit Retention: N/A

Credit Renewal: Non-renewable

2.8 Watershed Stewardship

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Non-Residential

Residential and non-residential customers may be eligible for a 10% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of one (1) year, by participating in watershed stewardship events. Watershed stewardship events provide an opportunity to take action to protect the watershed, increase public awareness about watershed management, and encourage participants to practice good pollution prevention practices on their own properties and at home. Eligible watershed stewardship activities are facilitated by the Water System throughout the year and include, but are not limited to, storm drain marking events, demonstration project workdays, privet/invasive plant pulls, waterways cleanups, and watershed data collection. Participation at events not sponsored by the Water System shall only be eligible for a credit if the event is pre-approved by the Water System. For pre-approval, email water_RSVP@cobbcounty.gov.

Each customer who wishes to apply for this credit must participate in the required hours of activity as outlined in the customer categories below and is responsible for obtaining documentation of attendance at approved events. Refer to Appendix B for a sample certificate of attendance. A minimum of four hours of participation from a representative population of the property must be documented and submitted with the credit application, as follows:

Residential Customers: At least one person (in the household and living on the property) must attend and submit signed certificate(s) of participation documenting a minimum of four hours of engagement. Attendance by multiple members of one household at an event is encouraged but only one participation certification will be provided per household, per event.

- 10% credit for 8 or more hours of activity
- 5% credit for four to seven hours of activity

Non-residential Customers: Participation is calculated based on the number of parking spaces seen on most recent aerial imagery of the property. Watershed Stewardship credits are awarded in 5% increments (5% or 10%).

- 10% credit: 50% participation (1/2 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) X 4 hours of watershed stewardship activities = total number of watershed stewardship activities hours needed)
- 5% credit: 25% participation (1/4 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) X 4 hours of watershed stewardship activities = total number of watershed stewardship activities hours needed)

The Water System encourages and supports the efforts of school facilities and membership-based service organizations in educating and informing the public on the importance of water conservation and water resource issues. To encourage stewardship partnerships, the Water System developed the following toolkits to provide guidance on obtaining a reduction on the stormwater service fee for these entities:

- School Facility Toolkit (Appendix C)
- Membership-Based Service Organization (Appendix D)

Note: If your organization is interested in utilizing the Membership-Based Service Organization toolkit, contact the Water System to discuss eligibility and obtain approval prior to using the toolkit.

Required documentation:

- Complete credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- Certificate(s) of participation, with the following information:
    - Activity name, date, and number of hours,
    - Participant name, address of parcel/property participant is representing, and
    - Signature of event facilitator.
- If approved to use a toolkit, submit documentation specified in toolkit.

Credit Retention: N/A

Credit Renewal: The applicant may reapply for the credit annually by participating in additional watershed stewardship events each year and submitting the certificates of participation with a new credit application.

2.9 Watershed Education

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Non-Residential

Residential and non-residential customers may be eligible for up to a 10% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of one (1) year, by attending and/or participating in approved watershed education programs and workshops. Watershed education programming educates and informs the public on the importance of water conservation, water resource management, and pollution prevention. Eligible watershed education programs and workshops are facilitated each month by the Water System and are listed on the Water System's website at https://www.cobbcounty.gov/water. Programs and workshops not sponsored by the Water System shall only be eligible for a credit if they are pre-approved by the Water System. For pre-approval, email water_RSVP@cobbcounty.gov.

Each customer who wishes to apply for this credit must participate in the required hours as outlined in the customer categories below and is responsible for obtaining documentation of attendance at approved events. Refer to Appendix B for a sample certificate of attendance. A minimum of five hours of participation from a representative population of the property must be submitted with the credit application, as described below.

Residential Customers: At least one person (in the household and living on the property) must attend and submit signed certificate(s) of participation documenting a minimum of five hours of engagement. Attendance by multiple members of one household at an event is encouraged but only one participation certification will be provided per household, per event.

- 10% credit for 10 or more hours of educational activity
- 5% credit for 5 to 9 hours of educational activity

Non-residential Customers: Participation is calculated based on the number of parking spaces seen on most recent aerial imagery of the property. Education credits are awarded in 5% increments (5% or 10%).

- 10% credit: 80% participation (4/5 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) X 5 hours of education programming = total number of education hours needed
- 5% credit: 40% participation (2/5 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) X 5 hours of education programming = total number of education hours needed

The Water System encourages and supports the efforts of school facilities, and other special service organizations, in educating and informing the public on the importance of water conservation and water resource issues. To encourage educational partnerships, the Water System has developed the following toolkits to provide guidance on how-to obtain a reduction on the stormwater service fee for these entities.

- School Facility Toolkit (Appendix C)
- Membership-Based Service Organization (Appendix D)

Note: If your organization is interested in utilizing the Membership-Based Service Organization toolkit, contact the Water System to discuss eligibility and obtain approval prior to using the toolkit.

Required documentation:

- Completed credit application as outlined in Section 1.4
- Certificate(s) of participation, with the following information:
    - Activity name, date, and number of hours,
    - Participant name, address of parcel/property participant is representing, and
    - Signature of event facilitator.

Credit Retention: N/A

Credit Renewal: The applicant may reapply for the credit annually by participating in additional watershed education events each year and submitting the certificates of participation with a new credit application.

2.10 Adopt-A-Pond

Eligible Customer Classes: Residential and Homeowner's Associations

Residential customers who conduct approved maintenance activities on County-owned detention ponds within their subdivision are eligible for up to a 10% stormwater service fee credit, for a period of five (5) years. The detention pond must be located on an individual parcel that is platted within the subdivision. The following credit is offered based on maintenance activity performed:

- 5% credit for mowing the grass in and around the pond
- 5% credit for removing debris from the Outlet Control Structure (OCS)

If an entity representing a subdivision, such as a homeowner's association (HOA), wants to take responsibility for the maintenance of a County-owned detention pond, a special maintenance agreement (i.e., Stormwater Facility Maintenance and License Agreement) between the entity and the County will be required. The HOA should determine whether the credit is to be applied to the HOA account or to individual customer accounts. The credit is limited to a maximum of 50 individual customer accounts per detention pond.

Required documentation (prior to beginning any maintenance activities):

- Completed credit application as outlined in Section 1.4.
- Detention pond information:
  - Name of subdivision
  - Name of HOA, if applicable
  - Address of detention pond property, parcel number, or address of adjacent lot.
- A plan outlining the proposed maintenance tasks and frequency of each task.
- List of property owner(s) and addresses who should receive the credit.

Once the credit application and all required documentation has been approved, including an executed Stormwater Facility and License Agreement, maintenance activities can begin. The credit will be applied to the assigned account(s) within 45 days of approval.

Credit Retention: To maintain eligibility for the credit during the five (5) year term, the applicant must provide documentation of maintenance activities. An annual report shall be submitted, including photos as necessary, and certification that the pond continues to be maintained. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the annual report and certification. Failure to make the required submittals could result in forfeiture of the stormwater credit.

In addition, the Water System may conduct periodic inspections. If the pond is not being maintained as required in the Agreement, the Water System has the right to rescind the credit. If rescinded, the applicant must perform necessary maintenance and submit a new credit application before the credit would be reinstated.

Credit Renewal: The applicant may reapply for the credit every five years after the initial approval by submitting a new credit application and continuing maintenance as outlined in the maintenance agreement.

APPENDIX A

STORMWATER SERVICE FEE CREDIT APPLICATION

Cobb County Water System

Stormwater Service Fee Credit Application

Instructions:

Fill out this form completely and follow the application instructions as outlined in Section 1.4. Include all required documentation for each credit requested. Submit online form and upload required documentation, or print then mail or hand-deliver the completed application and required documentation to:

Cobb County Water System
Stormwater Management Division
688 South Cobb Drive
Marietta, GA 30060

I hereby request Cobb County Water System to review this application for a stormwater credit(s). I further authorize the County to investigate the site characteristics of the identified parcel for the purpose of evaluation for a stormwater credit(s). I certify that I have the authority to make such a request and grant such authority for County staff to evaluate this property for the purposes of approving or denying the requested credit. The attached information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to provide corrected information should there be any change in the information provided herein.

_____
Type or print name of Applicant

_____ _____
Signature of Applicant Date

_____ _____
Property Address Account No.

This form must be signed by an individual person who is responsible for the site operations and/or payment of the stormwater bill. If the responsible entity is a government entity, religious institution, non-profit organization, or corporation, then the form must be signed by an officer, director, partner, or registered agent with authority to execute instruments for the customer account.

For Cobb County Water System's Use Only

☐ Approved

☐ Not Approved – See attached comments

☐ Incomplete – Revise and resubmit

_____ _____
Stormwater Management Division Date

Stormwater Service Fee Credit Application – Page 2

Customer Information:

Customer Name:	
Water/Stormwater Account Number:	
Mailing Address (number and street):	
Mailing Address (City, State and Zip):	
Contact Phone Number:	
Contact E-mail Address:	

Property Information:

Parcel Address (number and street):	
Parcel Address (City, State, and Zip):	
Parcel Identification Number:	
Parcel Location/Name of Development:	
Authorized Property Owner Contact: *(If different than Customer Information above)*	

Place a check next to the credit requested with this application:

☑	**Credit Type**	**Applicability**	**Maximum Prorated User Credit**	**Credit Earned** *for use by Water System staff*
	GSMM Unified Sizing Criteria			
	Runoff Reduction Volume/Water Quality	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Channel Protection	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Overbank Flood Protection	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Extreme Flood Protection	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Exceeds GSMM and Cobb Development Standards	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Septic Tank Maintenance	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Impervious Surface Reduction	Non-Residential	40%	
	NDPES Industrial Stormwater General Permit Compliance	Non-Residential	10%	
	Low Impact Parcel	Residential/Non-Residential	15%	
	Watershed Improvement Project	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Watershed Stewardship	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Watershed Education	Residential/Non-Residential	10%	
	Adopt-A-Pond	Residential	10%	
			TOTAL %	

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

This serves as official verification of participation in the following CCWS sponsored activity:

Participant Name: _____

Address Participant Represents: _____

_____

Activity: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Facilitator Signature: _____

In order to receive Stormwater fee credit for this activity, you must submit a copy of this certificate with your application. This certificate will not be reproduced if lost.

APPENDIX C

SCHOOL FACILITY TOOLKIT

School Facility
Stormwater Service Fee Credit Toolkit

Cobb County Water System has developed a stewardship and education toolkit to provide schools with guidance on how-to obtain a reduction on the stormwater service fee. The per-parcel credit may not total more than 20%, and the credit may only be applied to the property where the educational activities are taught. Credits cannot be applied to administrative facilities, bus lots, parking lots that are not associated with the educational facility, or warehouse/facility operations related parcels. Schools that are housed on/with larger facilities such as faith-based institutions are not eligible to receive this credit but may be eligible to utilize the Membership-Based Service Organization Toolkit.

K-12

Fee credits are based on a public or private K-12 school's annual participation in the Water System's Green School Initiative, earning 5% for each award level achieved, up to a maximum of 20%.

To qualify as a Green School, a prescribed percentage of classrooms in each school must each complete Blue Earth Activities and participate in approved Watershed Stewardship service projects and Water System School Contest/Competition during the school year. Each classroom will record their activities on a collaborative document allowing the school to track progress. Once all classrooms have completed their Green School activities, the file is submitted to the Water System. The deadline for submission of documentation is the last school day in March. Schools successfully fulfilling the requirements will be awarded as follows:

- 20% Credit - Platinum Award: 50+% classrooms fulfill requirements
- 15% Credit - Gold Award: 40-49% classrooms fulfill requirements
- 10% Credit - Silver Award: 30-39% classrooms fulfill requirements
- 5% Credit - Green Award: 20-29% classrooms fulfill requirements
- 0% Credit - Green Teacher: <20% of classrooms fulfill requirements, but individual classes fulfill requirements

Credits are based on the percentage of classrooms participating in three factors:

1. Two Blue Earth Activities (at least one outdoors)
2. Two Watershed Stewardship service projects, totaling at least 4 hours of service/classroom
3. One or more Water System school contest/competitions

Postsecondary Institutions

The Water System will work with postsecondary institutions to develop annual stewardship and education benchmarks to earn up to a 20% credit.

How-to Utilize the School Facility Stormwater Service Fee Credit Toolkit

- Complete the online Cobb County Green School Initiative (GSI) enrollment form, providing basic demographic data. This information is used to provide a benchmark for engagement numbers needed to achieve each credit level.
    - Elementary School Form: https://cobbcounty.seamlessdocs.com/f/WatershedGreenSchoolApplicationElementary
    - Middle/High School Form: https://cobbcounty.seamlessdocs.com/f/WatershedGreenSchoolApplicationMiddle
- The Water System will calculate the number of hours and participant reach needed for each award level.
- Utilize the reporting spreadsheet file sent by CCWS to track progress and document implementation.
- All activities must occur and be submitted within a school year and documentation submitted after all credit-qualifying events have been completed.
- The credit application and documentation will be reviewed by the Water System to determine award level.
- Credits will be scheduled and shown as a reduction on the account for the following 12 months.
- Annual re-application is required annually for credit renewal.

APPENDIX D

MEMBERSHIP-BASED SERVICE ORGANIZATION TOOLKIT

Membership-Based Service Organization Facility Stormwater Service Fee Credit Toolkit

Cobb County Water System has developed a stewardship and education toolkit to provide membership-based service organizations with guidance on how-to obtain a reduction on the stormwater service fee. Fee credits are based on the facility's participation in watershed activities, earning 5% for each engagement level achieved up to a maximum of 20%.

To qualify, a prescribed percentage of the membership must participate in approved Watershed Stewardship Service Projects and be reached by Watershed Education Campaigns. Facilities log their activities on the reporting form provided by the Water System to track progress. Once all activities are completed, the reporting form is submitted to the Water System. Facilities will receive credits as follows:

- 20% Credit: fulfills 10% requirements in both stewardship & education
- 15% Credit: fulfills 10% requirements in one area & 5% requirement in one area
- 10% Credit: fulfills 10% requirement in only one area or 5% requirement in both areas
- 5% Credit: fulfills 5% requirement in only one area

Credits are based on:

- Achieving at least 4 hours of service completing Watershed Stewardship Service Projects
    - 5% credit: 25-49% participation (1/4 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) X 4 hours = total number of watershed stewardship activities hours needed
    - 10% credit: 50+% participation (1/2 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) X 4 hours = total number of watershed stewardship activities hours needed

- Implementing at least 6 Watershed Education Campaigns (utilizing a minimum of 3 outreach methods from provided toolkit resources) to reach membership with education & messaging
    - 5% credit: 40% reach (2/5 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) = 40-79% of the membership reached
    - 10% credit: 80% reach (4/5 of the number of parking spaces visible in aerial imagery) = 80+% of the membership reached

If you organization is interested in utilizing the toolkit, contact the Water System to discuss eligibility and obtain approval prior to using the toolkit.

The per-parcel credit may not total more than 20% and credit may only be applied to the property where the -membership-based services are offered. Credits cannot be applied to administrative facilities, bus lots, parking lots that are not associated with membership-based services, or warehouse/facility operations related parcels.

How-to Utilize the Membership-Based Service Organization Facility Stormwater Service Fee Credit Toolkit

- Complete the online toolkit enrollment form, providing basic demographic data.
- The Water System will calculate the number of hours and participants reach needed to qualify for the discount.
- Toolkit Resources include:
  - Slides to be shared during meetings/services
  - Videos to be viewed by members
  - Articles to be published in member newsletter
  - Posts to be published on social media platforms + tagging the Water System (currently active on Facebook and Instagram)
- Documented participation in Water System qualifying stewardship and education programs can be utilized toward required hours and reach.
- Utilize the reporting spreadsheet file sent by CCWS to track progress and document implementation.
- All activities must be completed, and documentation submitted within one year of enrollment and after all credit-qualifying events have been completed.
- The credit application and documentation will be reviewed by the Water System to determine credits earned.
- Credits will be scheduled and shown as a reduction on the account for the following 12 months.
- Annual re-application is required.

Required Documentation:

- Certificate(s) of Participation issued by the Water System for programs attended.
- Three outreach methods used for each focus area along with:
  - Attendance records for resources shared at a meetings/services
  - Date stamped images of the slides/video shared during meetings/services
  - E-copies of the newsletter articles with publication date and distribution data

Snips for each recorded post with interactions for each post or the analytics showing engagement for each post