

Trees, Litter, & Creeks (TLC) Community Stewardship Program

Participate in volunteer cleanup activities and events for litter and debris cleanup, storm drain marking and monitoring, planting native trees during a city-sponsored event, or removal of invasive plants from the resource protection area (RPA). With this program, you are eligible for a credit of one BU for every four hours of participation, with a maximum of three BU credits or 1% for every two volunteer hours on the activity, earning a maximum of 15% credit per event, whichever is greater. You can use up to three approved TLC activities or events to qualify for SWU credit each year. You may apply for this credit annually.

Quick Reference Table

Non-Structural BMP	Max Credit	Credit Period
Nutrient Management Plan	Up to 10%	3 years
No Fertilizer Pledge	Flat 5%	1 year
Tree Canopy Preservation*	1 BU/50" (or more) DSH	2 years
Tree Canopy Expansion*	1 BU/Tree Set (2 trees)	2 years
Trees, Litter, & Creeks (TLC) Community Stewardship Program	Min 1 BU, Max 15% per event (3 max/yr)	1 year
*2 additional billing unit (BU) credits may be earned if trees are located in a resource protection area (RPA)		

Structural Credits

Structural credits are available for stormwater management facilities, commonly referred to as BMPs, that are in good condition, regardless of age. Credit calculations are based on the age of the BMP and the percentage of the property that is treated by the BMP. Read more about structural credits in the credit manual at fairfaxva.gov/stormwaterutility.

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted by email or in person by visiting the Department of Public Works at City Hall (Suite 200). For more information, visit fairfaxva.gov/stormwaterutility.

Applications for SWU credits must be completed and submitted to the Department of Public Works no later than October 1 each year to be included with the coming year's SWU fee assessment.

Contact Us

Address: City of Fairfax Stormwater Utility
Department of Public Works, Suite 200
10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: (703) 385-2578

Email: stormwaterutility@fairfaxva.gov

To request this information in an alternate format for accessibility, call (703) 385-7800, TTY 711.



CITY OF FAIRFAX
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT

Stormwater Utility Credit Program

Get credit when you help
protect our local waterways.



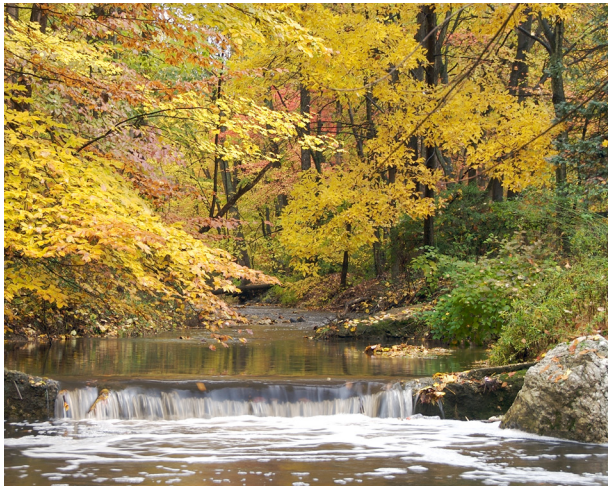
Scan for more information!

What is the Stormwater Utility Fee?

The city developed the Stormwater Utility (SWU) program to provide a stable and equitable source of stormwater management funding to protect the city's waterways and reduce pollution to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Stormwater Utility Fee applies to each eligible residential and non-residential property in the city with at least 500 square feet of impervious cover. Every 500 square feet of impervious cover a property contains equals one SWU Billing Unit (BU).

The fee per BU is set each year by the City Council, and all properties are assessed using the same methodology at the same rate. The SWU fee will appear on property owners' real estate tax bills as a separate line item. Real estate taxes are due in June and December of each year.



Daniels Run Park

How To Earn Stormwater Utility Credit

The city recognizes that certain stormwater management practices reduce the impact that a property's stormwater has on the city's stormwater infrastructure and waterways.

Property owners and organizations that install, maintain, and engage with city-approved best management practices (BMPs) can earn SWU credits to reduce their annual SWU fee.

SWU credits may be earned cumulatively, with no set maximum percentage, except that regardless of how much credit a property earns per year, each property will be charged at least one billing unit (BU) per year.

Non-Structural Credits

Nutrient Management Plan

Develop a nutrient management plan with a Virginia-certified nutrient management planner and implement the plan on your property. With this plan, you are eligible for up to a 10% credit, based on the percentage of the parcel covered by the nutrient management plan. This credit is effective for a three-year period and can be renewed by either developing an updated plan or documenting the continued implementation of an existing plan.

No Fertilizer Pledge

Stop using fertilizer, or continue not using fertilizer, on your property. With this credit, you are eligible for a 5% credit on your SWU bill. The No Fertilizer Pledge is effective for one year and can be renewed annually.

Tree Canopy Preservation

You can document the preservation of trees on your property. Preserved trees must be healthy, unaffected by invasive species, and at least 12 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH is 4.5 feet up from the ground) or 38 inches in circumference. You can count multiple trees for 50 inches or more in total diameter or 157.5 inches or more in total circumference. With this credit, you are eligible for up to a maximum of three BU credits. Approved tree preservation credits are valid for two years, and you can reapply for the credit biannually.

Tree Canopy Expansion

Plant tree sets on your property. Tree sets consist of two trees, at least one-inch caliper, that are planted at least 12 feet apart. Trees must be native to Northern Virginia. With this credit, you are eligible for up to a maximum of three BU credits. This credit is effective for two years and can be renewed by providing proof of ongoing care and maintenance of the originally planted trees that generated the credit, or through the replacement of any trees that were planted in the intervening period.