

2015

City of Decatur
Stormwater Credit Manual



Public Works Department
#1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza
Decatur, IL 62523

As of 09/30/2015

CITY OF DECATUR

STORMWATER CREDIT MANUAL

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Chapter 1: Introduction..... | 1 |
| Stormwater Utility..... | 1 |
| Why a Stormwater Utility..... | 1 |
| How Fees and Credits are Determined | 2 |
| Chapter 2: Definitions..... | 4 |
| Chapter 3: Credit Policies..... | 7 |
| Application Submittal | 7 |
| Review | 8 |
| Appeals | 8 |
| Indemnification | 9 |
| Chapter 4: Zero Discharge Credit | 10 |
| Application Requirements | 10 |
| Chapter 5: Direct Discharge Credit | 11 |
| Exceptions..... | 11 |
| Application Requirements | 12 |
| Chapter 6: Individual Residential Credit | 13 |
| Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) | 13 |
| Rain Garden..... | 13 |
| On-Site Stormwater Storage..... | 13 |
| Pervious pavement | 14 |
| Vegetated Filter Strips..... | 14 |
| Restrictions..... | 15 |
| Application Requirements | 15 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Chapter 7: Quantity Reduction Credits | 16 |
| Runoff Quantity Credit | 16 |
| Frequent Storm Quantity Credit..... | 16 |
| Application Requirements | 17 |
| Chapter 8: Water Quality Credits..... | 18 |
| NPDES Compliance Credit | 18 |
| Best Management Practice (BMP) Credit | 18 |
| Application Requirements | 19 |
| NPDES Compliance -Credit | 19 |
| Best Management Practice (BMP) Credit..... | 19 |
| Chapter 9: Education Credit..... | 21 |
| Application Requirements | 21 |
| Chapter 10: Long-Term Maintenance and Credit Program Compliance..... | 22 |
| Appendix A: Application Forms | 23 |
| Appendix B: Supplementary Material | 24 |

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 STORMWATER UTILITY

The City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois passed Ordinance No. 2014-14 on April 21, 2014, which created a citywide Stormwater Utility. The utility will be used to:

1. Improve stormwater drainage throughout the City;
2. Repair an aging stormwater drainage system;
3. Fund the operation and maintenance of the existing stormwater drainage system; and
4. Meet the requirements of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System's (NPDES) permit.

The US-Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) regulates the discharge of stormwater into the waters of the United States based on the Clean Water Act (The Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972). The Sangamon River and its tributaries are considered "waters of the United States." Under this Act, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) must obtain and maintain the required conditions of an NPDES Permit. More information on these permit requirements can be found at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/index.cfm> and <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/permits/storm-water/ms4.html>.

As part of the Stormwater Utility, the City has developed a credit program through which a ratepayer can reduce their total stormwater utility fee. Credits will be available to all applicants who own developed properties within the City of Decatur corporate limits. This manual provides the information, instructions, examples and application forms necessary to apply for a stormwater utility fee credit.

A stormwater utility fee credit is a reduction in a stormwater utility fee for taking certain actions to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff from a property. This manual outlines the credits that are available and the steps that can be taken to receive these credits.

1.2 WHY A STORMWATER UTILITY

Stormwater runoff is water that flows off of buildings, yards, streets, parking lots and other surfaces when it rains. Stormwater runoff flows into the nearest natural or manmade drainage features such as streams, catch basins, pipes and ditches. Stormwater runoff eventually empties, untreated, into our local streams, ponds and lakes.

The amount of stormwater runoff that flows from a property increases as properties are developed and impervious, or hard, surfaces are added. The increase in runoff produced by developed properties creates a variety of negative impacts on both the storm drainage system and on natural drainage ways. This increase in runoff and the resulting negative impacts are directly proportional to the amount of impervious area found on the developed property. The larger the impervious area on a property, the more runoff the property generates.

The City of Decatur defines an impervious area as any area that prevents or significantly impedes the infiltration of stormwater into the soil. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, rooftops, sidewalks, walkways, patio areas, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, brick or concrete surfaces, compacted gravel surfaces (roads, driveways, parking, and storage areas), and other surfaces which prevent or significantly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater into the soil.

An increase in runoff pollution is another negative impact associated with stormwater runoff and is identified as being of particular concern to the City of Decatur. The Sangamon River and Lake Decatur have been identified as impaired waterways by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Waters are called “impaired” if they cannot fully support one of the following uses:

1. Aesthetic Quality
2. Aquatic Life
3. Fish Consumption
4. Primary Contact
5. Public & Food Processing Water Supply

Lake Decatur is impaired for Aquatic Life and Fish Consumption. More information can be found on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s website at: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/tmdl/index.html>. It has been shown in previous studies, such as the National Urban Runoff Program (NURP)¹, that there is a direct correlation between increases in impervious area and increases in polluted stormwater runoff. Therefore, increases in impervious area result in increases in both stormwater runoff and pollution.

1.3 HOW FEES AND CREDITS ARE DETERMINED

Since the amount of stormwater runoff generated by a given property is directly proportional to the amount of impervious area on that property, the amount of the stormwater utility fee a property owner pays is also directly proportional to the amount of impervious area on their property.

The total Stormwater Utility Fee is comprised of two parts: (1) The Base Fee, which is currently set at \$3.00/parcel; and, (2) The ERU Fee, which is a measure of impervious area, and is currently set at \$0.67/ERU.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Base Fee} + \text{ERU Fee} &= \text{Total Stormwater Utility Fee} \\ \$3.00/\text{parcel} + \$0.67/\text{ERU} &= \text{Total Stormwater Utility Fee} \end{aligned}$$

Credits will be applied as a percentage reduction of the property’s ERU fee, and NOT the property’s Stormwater Utility Fee as a whole.

In Spring of 2011, the impervious area of all residential properties within the City was measured. It was found that an average developed single-family residential property has four thousand five hundred (4,500) square feet of impervious area. As a result, 4,500 square feet is used as the base billing unit or Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Each single-family residential parcel smaller

than 1.0 acre in gross area is billed according to a flat rate schedule contained in the City Code. The Stormwater Utility Fee for single-family residential parcels over 1.0 acre and all other parcels is determined on a case-by-case basis according to the amount of impervious area on the parcel. The amount of impervious area is measured in square feet and divided by 4,500. The result of that division is rounded up to the next whole number and becomes the number of ERUs assigned to the parcel. (For example, if a parcel has a measured impervious area of 45,000 square feet, dividing by 4,500 will give an ERU value of exactly 10. The parcel will be assigned 10 ERUs. However, if a parcel has a measured impervious area of 46,000 square feet, dividing by 4,500 will give an ERU value of 10.2. After rounding up, that parcel will be assigned 11 ERUs.) That number multiplied by the unit-billing rate contained in the City Code yields the stormwater utility fee for that particular parcel.

The number of ERUs assigned to properties will remain constant unless physical changes are made that alter the amount of its impervious surface area. In these cases, billing changes will be made automatically at the completion of construction or demolition. Typically, these changes will be triggered through the building permit process.

A ratepayer’s stormwater credit is designed to reflect how much the property’s negative impact on the City’s stormwater system is reduced by approved methods. No credit may be approved except upon written application, as described in the ordinance and this manual. Available credits include:

| Credit Name | % Discount |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zero Discharge Credit | 100% |
| 2. Direct Discharge Credit | 50% |
| 3. Individual Residential Credit | 10%-20% |
| 4. Runoff Quantity Credit | 10%-20% |
| 5. Frequent Storm Quantity Credit | 15% |
| 6. NPDES Compliance Credit | 5% |
| 7. Best Management Practice Credit | 5%-10% |
| 8. Education Credit | 25% |

Credits will be applied as a percentage reduction of the property’s ERU amount, and NOT the property’s Stormwater Utility Fee as a whole.

The remainder of this Credit Manual will describe what is eligible for each credit and the requirements for applying for each credit. Application forms and can be found in Appendix A.

CHAPTER 2: DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will assist the applicant in understanding the requirements to receive a credit and fill out the appropriate forms.

APPLICANT: The owner of land requesting a stormwater utility fee credit or the agent or legal representative of the owner.

CITY: The City of Decatur, Illinois.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP): A stormwater control which, when properly installed and maintained, reduces the concentration of typical stormwater pollutants discharged from a particular -property by either providing a mechanism to trap or filter sediment or by promoting infiltration of stormwater runoff.

CREDIT: A conditional reduction in the amount of a stormwater utility fee to an individual property based on approved on-site controls, NPDES industrial stormwater discharge permit, or proof of direct discharge outside of the corporate limits.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: The Public Works Department of the City of Decatur; the department that manages the stormwater utility.

DETENTION FACILITY (DRY): Privately-owned and maintained stormwater detention facility, constructed for the purpose of slowing the stormwater runoff from a developed site to control the peak discharge rate. This is normally a dry basin between storms. This facility is maintained by the property owner.

DETENTION FACILITY (WET): Privately-owned and maintained stormwater detention facility, constructed for the purpose of slowing stormwater runoff from a developed site to control the peak discharge rate. This basin normally maintains a permanent pool of water between storms. This facility is maintained by the property owner.

DETENTION FACILITY (PUBLIC): Publicly-owned and maintained stormwater detention facility, constructed for the purpose of slowing stormwater runoff from a developed site or multiple developed sites, by controlling the peak discharge rates on an area-wide basis. A public detention facility can be designed to be either wet or dry.

DITCH-OPEN: An open drainage channel with either natural (grassed) or paved (concrete) banks which may have continuous or intermittent flow of stormwater. Open ditches are often outlets for surface and subsurface storm sewer drainage systems.

DRAINAGE EASEMENT: The land required for the installation and maintenance of storm sewers or drainage ditches, or required along a natural stream or water course for preserving the channel and providing for the flow of water therein to safeguard the public against flood damage. The property in a drainage easement is not owned by the City.

DRAINAGE FACILITIES: All ditches, channels, conduits, retention-detention systems, tiles, swales, sewers, pump stations and other natural or artificial means of draining stormwater from land.

DRAINAGE REQUIREMENTS: Any or all of the following:

1. Minimum drainage standards as established by the Drainage Policy of the City of Decatur
2. Requirements stated under the Stormwater Ordinance, Chapter 38 of the City Code
3. Regulations promulgated by the City of Decatur
4. Obligations and requirements relating to drainage established under the Subdivision Ordinance of the City of Decatur
5. Requirements stated under the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Decatur, including floodway zoning requirements
6. Conditions relating to drainage attached to a grant of variance by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Decatur.

DRAINAGE-SUBSURFACE: A system of pipes, tile, conduit, or tubing installed beneath the ground surface used to collect and transport water from individual parcels, lots, building footings, or pavements.

DRAINAGE-SURFACE: A system by which the stormwater runoff is conducted to an outlet. This would include the proper grading of parking lots, streets, gutters, driveways and yards so that storm runoff is removed without ponding and flows to a drainage swale, open ditch, or a storm sewer.

DRAINAGE-SWALE: A natural or constructed waterway, usually broad and shallow, covered with erosion - resistant grasses, used to conduct surface water from a lawn, field, diversion, or other site feature.

DRAINAGE-SYSTEM: Any combination of surface and/or subsurface drainage components fulfilling a property's drainage requirements.

EASEMENT: A grant by the property owner of the use of a strip of land by the public, a corporation, or persons, for specified purposes. Easement types include but are not limited to temporary construction easements, permanent utility easements, permanent drainage easements, and ingress/egress easements. Easements may be granted to the City or other named parties.

ERU: Equivalent Residential Unit, used as the basis for determining the stormwater utility fee to a parcel. Based on measurements of parcels in the City of Decatur, the average amount of impervious area on a single family residential parcel is four thousand five hundred (4,500) square feet of impervious area and shall be considered one ERU. The number of ERUs attributed to a parcel is determined by dividing the total impervious area (square feet) of the parcel by four thousand five hundred (4,500) and rounding the result up to the next integer. For example, 46,000 square feet of impervious area divided by 4,500 square feet per ERU gives 10.2 ERUs. After rounding up, 11 ERUs will be assigned to the parcel.

IMPERVIOUS AREA: Areas that prevent or impede the infiltration of stormwater into the soil. Common impervious areas include, but are not limited to, rooftops, sidewalks, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, compacted aggregate (gravel) and awnings.

INFILTRATION BASIN: A type of best management practice (BMP) that is used to manage stormwater runoff, prevent flooding and downstream erosion, and improve water quality in downstream bodies of water. It is designed to infiltrate stormwater through permeable soils into the ground. Infiltration basins do not discharge to a surface water body under most storm conditions but are designed with overflow structures that operate during flood conditions. This facility is maintained by the property owner.

MAINTENANCE: Cleaning, spraying, removal of obstructions or debris or sediment from, and making minor repairs in a drainage facility or BMP so that it will perform the function for which it was designed and constructed.

NPDES: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, an EPA program initiated to reduce and eliminate pollutants reaching water bodies of all types.

QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL: An individual who (1) has received a baccalaureate or postgraduate degree in the natural sciences or engineering; and (2) is trained and experienced in stormwater treatment techniques and related fields as may be demonstrated by state registration, professional certification, or completion of coursework that enable the individual to make sound, professional judgments regarding stormwater control/treatment and drainage planning.

UTILITY FEE: Fee charged to owners or occupants all developed residential and non-residential properties, within the City of Decatur, based on impervious area, to manage the stormwater program.

CHAPTER 3: CREDIT POLICIES

It is the City’s intent to encourage sound technical design practices that reduce the negative impact of development on the City’s drainage system through a simple but effective credit system. Certain policies have been developed to maintain a balance between simplicity and effectiveness. Properties whose impact on the stormwater drainage system is significantly limited or has been effectively reduced by implementing specified stormwater reduction controls shall be entitled to a credit adjustment that will be applied to its stormwater utility fee.

It is the intent of the Public Works Department to process applications within sixty (60) days of submittal of the complete and correct application package. Credits will be applied beginning the date that the credit application has been approved. No credits will be applied retroactively. A pending application for credit shall not constitute a valid reason for non-payment of the current Stormwater Utility Fees. In the case of new development, Stormwater Utility Fees and the associated credits detailed herein do not apply until construction is complete or upon granting of conditional occupancy, whichever is earlier.

3.1 APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Property owners wishing to apply for stormwater utility credits shall complete all required application forms found in Appendix A of this manual. An application for each site will be required. The City of Decatur considers a site to be one or more parcels that are immediately adjacent to one another.

The technical component of the application, including stormwater detention calculations, hydrologic/hydraulic calculations, BMP performance calculations, certification of topography and drainage areas, and applicable BMP operations/maintenance manuals shall be completed by a Qualified Professional as defined in this document.

A credit application will not be considered complete and will not be processed unless accompanied by the application fee and all required forms and information as described in the ordinance and this manual. Application fees are nonrefundable and required as a condition of applying for credit(s).

The credit application fees are as follows:

| Credit Name | Application Fee | Multiple Credit Applications |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1. Zero Discharge Credit | \$25 | For sites applying for more than one credit, a maximum application fee total of \$250 will be considered. |
| 2. Direct Discharge Credit | \$25 | |
| 3. Individual Residential Credit | \$25 | |
| 4. Runoff Quantity Credit | \$100 | |
| 5. Frequent Storm Quantity Credit | \$100 | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--|
| 6. NPDES Compliance Credit | \$50 | |
| 7. Best Management Practice Credit | \$100 | |
| 8. Education Credit | \$100 | |

Application Forms must be submitted to:

City of Decatur
Public Works Department
Attn: Stormwater Utility
#1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza
Decatur, IL 62523

Make Checks Payable to: City of Decatur

For Questions Regarding the Credit Application, Contact:

City Stormwater Engineer
Department of Public Works
(217) 424-2747

3.2 REVIEW

The City of Decatur will review the application forms for completeness and accuracy within sixty (60) days of receipt of the application form and fee payment. If the application package is complete and accurate, credit(s) will be approved and the applicant notified in writing. An application for any credit is an acknowledgement of the indemnification statement in this section and the City of Decatur’s (City) right-of-entry to regularly inspect and verify the information submitted on said application.

If deficiencies are found during the review or an inspection, the applicant will be notified in writing. Upon receipt of additional information from the applicant, the review will resume and be completed within sixty (60) days of receipt of the additional information. If an application is denied or rescinded, the applicant will be notified in writing, including an explanation of the reasons for the denial.

Upon successful application for a stormwater credit, the City of Decatur will apply the appropriate utility fee reduction for the applicant’s subsequent stormwater utility bills.

3.3 APPEALS

If an applicant can unequivocally document and demonstrate through appropriate engineering studies that their property’s stormwater runoff impact on the City’s stormwater drainage system is significantly less than suggested by its assigned (gross) ERUs, the Public Works Director, upon recommendation of the staff, may make adjustments consistent with the intent of the ordinance establishing charges for stormwater services.

An applicant may appeal the results of the credit application review. Appeals shall be made within ten (10) days from the date of the decision, by filing a written Notice of Appeal with the Director of Public Works, specifying the grounds for the appeal. The Public Works Director will review the appeal and provide a written response within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice of appeal.

The decision of the Public Works Director may be appealed to the City Manager. The City Manager's decision shall be final.

3.4 INDEMNIFICATION

In consideration for permission to construct or install a stormwater improvement/BMP, and by applying for a stormwater utility fee credit, the applicant hereby acknowledges and agrees as follows:

- 1) After completion of the construction or installation by Owners and approval by the City, the stormwater improvement/BMP shall remain a privately owned and maintained stormwater improvement/BMP, shall not be accepted by the City, and shall not become a part of any maintenance program of the City of Decatur Stormwater Utility or Public Works Department. All maintenance responsibility and liability shall be and remain with the Owner(s), their personal representatives, heirs, grantees, successors, and assigns.
- 2) Owners, their personal representatives, heirs, grantees, successors, and assigns shall indemnify and hold harmless the City of Decatur, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, judgments, damages, losses, costs, and expenses (including attorney's fees) arising out of or resulting from the construction, installation, maintenance, or operation of the stormwater improvement/BMP.
- 3) This Agreement shall run with the real estate upon which the stormwater improvement/BMP has been constructed and shall be binding upon Owners, their personal representatives, heirs, grantees, successors, and assigns so long as the drainage facility and/or improvement or any part of it shall be used for stormwater drainage. This Agreement shall be disclosed upon transfer of real estate. At such time as the stormwater improvement/ BMP shall cease to be so used, this Agreement shall immediately terminate.

CHAPTER 4: ZERO DISCHARGE CREDIT

Recognizing that properties which do not release any stormwater do not place a burden on the City of Decatur stormwater program, a 100% credit of the ERU portion of the fee is available to those properties that contain all stormwater on their property.

To receive this credit, the applicant shall submit topographic data and calculations confirming that no portion of the property releases any stormwater runoff during a 25-year, 24-hour storm.

The Zero Discharge Credit is valid until the property is altered in a way that allows the release of stormwater runoff. At that time, the applicant will no longer be eligible for the Zero Discharge Credit. However, if the applicant's property contains a stormwater detention facility or other BMPs, the applicant may be eligible to reapply for a stormwater credit under the Water Quantity Credit and/or the Water Quality Credit options.

4.1 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Zero Discharge Credit application shall include the following information:

1. Application Fee: \$25
2. Topographic survey of the applicant's parcel(s), sufficient to verify general drainage patterns. Watershed breaks across the property shall be identified.
3. Layout of the drainage system on the property, including the location and elevations of natural and structural features.

CHAPTER 5: DIRECT DISCHARGE CREDIT

Recognizing that properties discharging directly to unincorporated areas place a lower overall burden on the City of Decatur stormwater program, a 100% credit of the ERU portion of the fee is available to those portions of the properties that are contiguous to unincorporated areas or which discharge directly to the Sangamon River downstream of the Lake Decatur Dam.

To receive this credit, the applicant shall submit site plans demonstrating which portion of the parcel directly discharges to the unincorporated area. For an individual parcel, the Direct Discharge Credit will apply only to the portion of the parcel that discharges to the unincorporated area.

The Direct Discharge Credit is valid until the City of Decatur annexes land adjacent to the applicant's stormwater discharge point(s). At that time, the applicant will no longer be eligible for the Direct Discharge Credit. However, if the applicant's property contains a stormwater detention facility or other BMPs, the applicant may be eligible to reapply for a stormwater credit under the Water Quantity Credit and/or the Water Quality Credit options.

This credit need only be applied for once, but will be reviewed if the property is redeveloped or re-graded.

5.1 EXCEPTIONS

The Direct Discharge Credit will *not* be granted under the following situations:

1. The discharge point is upstream of a public drainage facility for which the City of Decatur has maintenance responsibilities. *(Example: if the discharge from a property flows through a bridge or culvert prior to leaving the City of Decatur corporate limits and the City of Decatur maintains that drainage facility, then the Direct Discharge Credit will not be provided.)*
2. The portion of the property draining offsite has no impervious surface. In this case, all runoff-producing (impervious) areas of the property would still drain to the City of Decatur storm sewer system, so no Direct Discharge Credit would be provided.
3. The discharge point is outside the City's corporate limits but ultimately drains back into the City of Decatur. This applies to drainage facilities, such as the Stevens Creek, that convey stormwater runoff in and out of the City of Decatur several times before ultimately discharging to unincorporated areas.
4. The discharge point is outside the City's corporate limits but drains to a waterway which the City is required to maintain and/or monitor.

5.2 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Direct Discharge Credit application shall include the following information:

1. Application Fee: \$25
2. Topographic survey of the applicant's parcel(s), sufficient to verify general drainage patterns and identify key drainage boundaries used to determine the portion of the parcel(s) draining to unincorporated areas. Watershed breaks across the property shall be identified.
3. Layout of the drainage system on the property, including the location and elevations of natural and structural features
4. Location of impervious surfaces on the property

CHAPTER 6: INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTIAL CREDIT

Individual residential account holders who implement Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) may be eligible for a reduction of 10% per SCM, with a maximum credit of 20% off the ERU portion of the stormwater fee.

6.1 STORMWATER CONTROL MEASURES (SCMs)

6.1.1 RAIN GARDEN

Rain gardens are landscaped areas built in a depression that are designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff from a roof or other impervious surface. The plants and soil of the rain garden provide an easy, natural way of reducing the amount of stormwater runoff from individual residential properties. To obtain the Individual Residential Credit, the rain garden must meet the following criteria:

1. At least 25% of a property's roof area or an equivalent impervious surface area on the property must drain to the rain garden.
2. The rain garden must be sized and constructed in accordance with the worksheet on page 18 of the *Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners*, listed in Appendix B
3. Stormwater overflows from the rain garden must be directed to appropriate outlets to the storm drainage system and away from neighboring properties, sidewalks, steep slopes, or retaining walls.

6.1.2 ON-SITE STORMWATER STORAGE

On-site stormwater storage may include rain barrels, cisterns, bladders, or other stormwater storage devices approved by the City. Credit may be approved if the following criteria are met:

1. 50% of the property's roof area is properly connected to rain barrels or other approved storage devices that provide at least 40 gallons of storage per downspout, or storage devices must be sized to hold the runoff from 50% of the property's roof area during a 1-inch rainfall event. (See On-Site Stormwater Storage Fact Sheet in Appendix B for calculation details.)
2. On-site stormwater storage must be covered with a lid or screen that prevents mosquitoes from entering the storage container.
3. On-site stormwater storage must be completely drained in no less than 24 hours, and no longer than 4 days, after each rainfall event. Longer drainage periods may be acceptable if the storage device is larger than the minimum required storage.
4. Stormwater overflows from on-site stormwater storage or the draining of on-site storage devices must be directed to appropriate outlets to the storm drainage system or to vegetated areas, and away from neighboring properties, sidewalks, steep slopes, or retaining walls.

6.1.3 PVIOUS PAVEMENT

Pervious pavement may include paving blocks, grid pavers, or pervious concrete installed according to manufacturer's specifications. Pervious pavements can be used for driveways and patios with a stone reservoir underneath. The reservoir temporarily stores surface runoff before infiltrating it into the soil below the stone reservoir. Runoff is infiltrated directly into the soil and improves water quality. Gravel driveways are not considered a type of pervious pavement and are not available for any stormwater fee credit. (See Pervious Pavement Fact Sheet in Appendix B for more information.)

Credit may be approved if the following criteria are met:

1. The pervious pavement is installed for the purpose of runoff infiltration.
2. Area of pervious pavement is at least 1,000 square feet.
3. The stone reservoir underneath the pervious pavement is at least 10 inches deep at all points.
4. The installation meets the local building and zoning standards for driveway installations.
5. A yearly maintenance program as specified by the manufacturer is followed.

6.1.4 VEGETATED FILTER STRIPS

Vegetated filter strips are uniform strips of dense turf, meadow grasses, trees or other vegetation with a minimum slope to treat the water quality of small sheet flows from impervious surfaces. In certain circumstances a large lawn may meet the criteria for a vegetated filter strip. Credit may be approved if the following criteria are met:

1. The property is immediately adjacent to a creek or major drainage channel.
2. 50% of the property's roof area drains to the vegetated filter strip.
3. Filter strips are fully vegetated and vegetation is healthy.
4. The vegetated filter strip complies with the standards outlined in the District's fact sheet on Residential Vegetated Filter Strips. (See Appendix B.)

6.1.5 Other Credit Considerations

Stormwater control measures that provide either a reduction in peak discharge, a reduction in stormwater runoff volume, a water quality benefit, or some combination of the three, and that are not included in this chapter, may still be eligible to receive a credit for reduction of the stormwater fee. Applications for the proposed SCM(s) shall be submitted with the same application requirements as the other SCMs in this chapter. Benefits provided to the stormwater management system must be detailed, quantifiable, and verifiable. The City of Decatur Public Works Department will review applications and make adjustments to the Stormwater Utility Fee as appropriate.

6.2 RESTRICTIONS

The Individual Residential Credit applies only to the applicant. Credits do not transfer if ownership changes. A new application must be submitted for new account holders to continue receiving the Individual Residential Credit.

Individual residential SCMs cannot be combined on a property for a credit larger than 20%.

6.3 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Application fee: \$25.00
2. Individual Residential Credit Application
3. Required documentation that the SCM has been installed according to standards and requirements detailed above.
4. After an application has been approved, owner shall periodically submit documentation that the SCM has been maintained according to Chapter 10 of this Stormwater Credit Manual. Failure to submit this documentation by the required deadline or failure to maintain the SCM will result in elimination of the credit.

CHAPTER 7: QUANTITY REDUCTION CREDITS

Quantity Reduction Credits are available for properties that maintain runoff facilities or controls, such as detention or retention facilities, which significantly reduce stormwater runoff rates released from their property. Quantity Reduction Credits shall be conditioned on continuing compliance with the design, operation and maintenance requirements of all the applicable ordinances and codes of the City of Decatur, State or Federal Permitting, and this Stormwater Credit Manual.

7.1 RUNOFF QUANTITY CREDIT – (10% - 20%)

The City currently requires that all new developments meet the following criteria:

1. 100-year recurrence interval post-development peak flow shall not exceed the 3-year recurrence interval pre-developed peak flow.
2. Emergency spillway for storms exceeding the 100-year design.
3. Detention shall be designed and constructed according to City Standards.

Properties that meet these stormwater detention criteria will qualify to receive a 15% credit off the ERU portion of the fee.

Detention facilities with a storage volume of 115% or more of the volume required for the 100-year recurrence storm will qualify for a 20% credit off the ERU portion of the fee. The storage volume must be contained below the emergency spillway elevation.

Recognizing that many privately-maintained detention facilities were designed and constructed before the current 100-year design criteria, the City of Decatur will offer a partial credit for detention ponds that meet the following criteria:

1. 50-year recurrence interval post-development peak flow shall not exceed the 3-year recurrence interval pre-developed peak flow.
2. Emergency spillway for storms exceeding the 50-year design
3. Detention shall be designed and constructed according to City Standards.

Properties that meet these stormwater detention criteria will qualify to receive a 10% credit off the ERU portion of the fee.

7.2 FREQUENT STORM QUANTITY CREDIT – (10%)

A property owner may receive an additional 10% credit off the ERU portion of the fee if their stormwater facilities are designed to control the stormwater runoff produced by more frequent storm events. By controlling site discharge for the “first flush” and 2-year recurrence interval storms, the applicant will help reduce the hydraulic burden on receiving storm sewers and open drainage channels.

To be eligible for this credit, the property owner shall provide stormwater detention for the following specifications:

1. Provide detention volume for the runoff produced by 1 inch of rainfall (first flush storm) and release this volume over a period not less than twenty-four (24) hours. The total runoff volume from the first flush storm can be calculated as follows:

$$V_{ff} = 3630 * C * A$$

Where:

V_{ff} = First flush volume, post-development (in cubic feet)

C = Post-development runoff coefficient (see Appendix B, or page 4-49 of IDOT Drainage Manual)

A = Site drainage area (in acres)

2. Provide detention volume for a 2-year recurrence interval 24-hour duration rainfall event and release this volume over a period not less than thirty-six (36) hours. This volume shall be determined by calculating the runoff volume from a 2-year 24-hour hydrograph as calculated using the Rational Method.
3. For storms exceeding the 2-year magnitude, provide a defined outlet to the receiving drainage facility.

Properties that meet these stormwater detention criteria will qualify to receive a 10% credit off the ERU portion of the fee.

Detention meeting the requirements for the Frequent Storm Quantity Credit may also be eligible for a BMP Credit if it can be demonstrated that the stormwater control is designed for removal of Total Suspended Solids and meets performance and maintenance requirements.

7.3 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Application fee: \$100.00
2. Site Plan which includes, at a minimum, locations and dimensions of all proposed and existing elevations, drainage patterns, stormwater facilities and impervious areas.
3. Details of outlet control features and emergency spillway
4. Detailed engineering calculations showing compliance with the requirements of each credit applied for. An Illinois Professional Engineer must certify these calculations. The sum-total of pre-developed and post-developed runoff rates and volumes from all watersheds *within the property* must be calculated and compared, regardless of the number of natural or constructed watersheds in the property. Control of runoff in all of the property's watersheds shall be required to be eligible for credit. Control of runoff in only one watershed, *which takes into account the runoff from all others*, could receive credit.
5. As-built data certified by an Illinois Professional Engineer. The as-built data must verify the capacity of the detention facilities and outlet structures for which the credit has been applied.
6. Long-Term Maintenance Plan, per Chapter 10.

CHAPTER 8: WATER QUALITY CREDITS

Properties that provide measures to improve the quality of stormwater that leaves the property are eligible to receive a portion or all of the available Water Quality Credits. These credits shall be conditioned on continuing compliance with the design, operation and maintenance requirements of all the applicable ordinances and codes of the City of Decatur, State or Federal Permitting, and this Stormwater Credit Manual. For those properties that are granted a Quantity Reduction Credit, the Water Quality Credit will be added to those credits.

8.1 NPDES COMPLIANCE CREDIT – (5% OFF ERU PORTION)

This credit will apply only to industrial property owners who currently have an Industrial NPDES Stormwater Permit issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This credit is conditional upon the proof of permit coverage and continuing compliance. The applicant shall submit coverage and compliance updates every permit renewal cycle to remain eligible for this credit.

The NPDES Compliance Credit can be received even if the property is already receiving the maximum 50% credit to their Stormwater Utility Fees, giving a total possible 55% credit off the ERU portion of the fee.

8.2 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) CREDIT – (5%-10%)

This credit will be available to applicants who discharge a portion or all of their runoff to structural or non-structural best management practices (BMPs) which significantly reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. A BMP Credit will be granted if the applicant can demonstrate that the BMPs are designed to provide a minimum of 75% reduction in Total Suspended Solids (TSS), as measured on an annualized basis. Engineering calculations and, if applicable, vendor specifications shall be included with the application to demonstrate the minimum 75% TSS removal efficiency of the BMPs.

A BMP Credit is also available for non-structural BMPs such as a filter strip or natural preservation area, which provides water quality benefits and/or the possibility of groundwater recharge, thus removing water from the stormwater system and improving water quality. The non-structural BMP shall be constructed according to accepted practices or the owner's engineer shall provide calculations showing removal of 75 percent TSS. To receive credit, it must be shown that each type of BMP will be applied in all feasible locations and situations that the site topography will allow, maximizing the amount of impervious area that will benefit from the BMP.

Other equivalent professional techniques such as those published by U.S. EPA, National Resource Conservation Service, American Society of Civil Engineers, and other professional organizations may be considered. A BMP credit can also be applied in addition to any approved Quantity Reduction Credits, such as a wet detention pond that is designed to remove at least 75 percent total suspended solids (TSS).

BMP credits amounts are 5% off the ERU portion of the fee, per approved BMP type used. A maximum total of 10% off the ERU portion of the fee is available. Property owners that receive the 5% NPDES Compliance Credit may also be eligible for the 10% BMP Credit if it can be demonstrated that the NPDES compliance activities and related stormwater controls meet the specifications of the BMP Credit.

8.3 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

8.3.1 NPDES COMPLIANCE CREDIT

1. Application Fee: \$50
2. Copy of most current NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit and required reporting information
3. Past year's Visual Inspection Reports

The property owner must reapply every NPDES permit cycle and provide the most current Visual Inspection Report in order to maintain this credit. Quality controls and spill protection implemented as part of the property owner's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) can also be approved for a BMP Credit as defined in this Chapter, but they must be applied for separately. If a property owner wishes to apply for a BMP Credit for any of these controls, 2 applications and associated fees will be required; one for the NPDES Compliance Credit and one for the BMP Credit. It is not guaranteed that a property owner who is receiving a NPDES Compliance Credit will also receive a BMP Credit. Each BMP Credit will be reviewed on its own merits.

8.3.2 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) CREDIT

1. Application fee: \$100. Multiple BMPs can be listed on one BMP Credit application, but the NPC must be applied for separately.
2. Plat of survey certified by an Illinois-Registered Land Surveyor, or site construction plan certified by an Illinois Professional Engineer, indicating the following:
 - a. Location and dimensions of the BMPs on the property
 - b. Watershed breaks across the property
 - c. Layout of impervious surface areas on the property
 - d. Layout of the drainage system on the property, including location and elevations of natural and man-made features
 - e. Sufficient topographic data or elevations to verify general drainage patterns across the property.
3. Information for specific BMPs
 - a. If a filter strip is to receive credit, the following criteria must be met:
 - i. The minimum length of the filter strip shall be 50 feet.
 - ii. The minimum undisturbed width shall be 50 feet.
 - iii. The maximum contributing length to the filter strip shall be 75 feet.
 - iv. The average contributing overland slope shall be less than or equal to 5 percent.
 - v. The filter strip shall be preserved in a conservation easement or similar protective mechanism that ensures protection of the area for the duration of the credit.
 - b. Natural areas include forested retention areas, wetlands and associated buffers, and other lands in protective easement such as floodplains or open space. If a natural area is to receive credit, the following criteria must be met:
 - i. The minimum natural area must be greater than or equal to 20 percent of the gross area.
 - ii. The area must be protected by limits of construction shown on all construction drawings and shall not be disturbed during any construction process.
 - iii. The applicant must be able to ensure protection of the area beyond the construction period, for the duration of the credit.
 - iv. The area must be upstream of the existing or proposed stormwater treatment practice.

- c. For Structural BMPs used for a BMP Credit, supporting plans, calculations and reference information must be provided to demonstrate that the BMP can achieve TSS removal of at least 75 percent. The most common BMP capable of meeting this removal rate is a wet detention or retention pond designed to settle suspended solids. Other passive or active BMPs such as sand filters, inline swirl concentrators and commercially available catch basin inserts will also be considered for a BMP Credit, provided that they meet the other criteria of this Chapter, and that all such structures on the site receive the same treatment when feasible (installing a filter in one catch basin will not qualify for a BMP Credit, but installing and maintaining a filter in ALL catch basins on a property would).
4. Long-Term Maintenance Plan, per Chapter 10.

CHAPTER 9: EDUCATION CREDIT

The City of Decatur is required by its NPDES stormwater permit to provide stormwater quality education. In order to accomplish this, the City intends to provide the opportunity for schools to provide this education, thereby reducing the burden on the City of Decatur for stormwater education. A maximum Education Credit of 25% off the ERU portion of the fee is available to all public and private primary, elementary and secondary schools, as recognized by the State of Illinois, that assist the City in complying with its NPDES stormwater permit.

The City of Decatur Public Works Department will review applications and make adjustments to the Stormwater Utility Fee as appropriate.

An individual school may apply for the credit, or a school district may apply on behalf of all its schools. The Education Credit can be received even if the property is already receiving the maximum 50% credit, giving a total possible credit of 75% off the ERU portion of the fee. Eligible applicants may add the amount of the Education Credit to the total credits received for onsite stormwater controls and BMPs. Separate non-educational properties owned by the school or school district, such as administrative, transportation or maintenance facilities are not eligible for the Education Credit, but may apply for any quantity or quality credits.

As the Education Credit is a non-technical application, it is not required to have a Qualified Professional complete the application form.

9.1 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Application fee: \$100.00 (first time only, unless update requirements are not met)
2. Proposal which includes, at a minimum:
 - a. Description of educational program,
 - b. Individual school or school district yearly enrollment.
 - c. Number of students to be reached during the school year.
 - d. Proposed method of reporting compliance with submittal.

CHAPTER 10: LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE AND CREDIT PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Applicants who receive credits as outlined in this document must keep the stormwater controls/BMPs properly maintained. Customers shall maintain the facilities to standards established by the City of Decatur and shall document all operations and maintenance (O&M) activities by submitting an Inspection Report to the Public Works Director following the schedule detailed below:

1. Rain gardens, bioswales, and vegetated filter strips: Every year for the first three years, then every three years
2. Pervious pavement: Every year for the first three years, then every three years
3. Rain barrels, cisterns, and bladders: Every two years
4. Retention and detention facilities: Every two years

The Inspection Report shall consist of a letter describing the O&M for each stormwater control measure and be completed and signed by a Qualified Professional. The due dates for Inspection Reports will coincide with the effective credit application date. Reporting is required to remain eligible for the stormwater credit.

The Long-Term Maintenance Plan shall include:

1. Description and locations of stormwater controls and BMPs to be inspected and maintained by the applicant
2. Schedule of inspection and the techniques used to inspect and maintain the systems to ensure that they are functioning properly as designed (vendor O&M manuals may be used, if applicable)
3. Method(s) of disposal for extracted material from maintenance activities
4. Person(s) and phone number(s) of who will be responsible for inspection and maintenance

The City of Decatur reserves the right to inspect applicants' properties to verify the functionality of the detention facilities or BMPs. In the event of noncompliance, the applicant will be notified and given sixty (60) days to address the deficiencies and bring the facility to full compliance. If the deficiencies have not been corrected within 60 days of the notice of noncompliance, the credit will be forfeited. Upon the forfeiture of a stormwater credit, the property owner will have to address the site deficiencies resulting in the forfeiture and reapply for a new stormwater credit. The credit application fee will *not* be waived in this situation.

APPENDIX A: APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms can be found and downloaded on the City's website
<https://www.decaturl.gov/departments/public-works/stormwater-utility/>

Application forms are required to apply for any of the available stormwater utility fee credits. The title of each form specifies which credit you are applying for. *All applicants must complete the General Application Form.* Complete all other applicable forms and attach all calculations, site plans, and other supporting data. Incomplete applications will be returned without being reviewed and will need to be resubmitted. Applications submitted without a fee shall be considered incomplete. Effective application dates will coincide with the date when completed applications are received.

General Credit Application
Combined Credit Application Form

Best Management Practice
Direct Discharge
Education
Frequent Storm Quantity
Individual Residential
NPDES Compliance
Runoff Quantity
Zero Discharge

APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The following supplementary materials can be found and downloaded on the City's website

Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners, from the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

On-Site Stormwater Storage Fact Sheet (Rain Barrels, Cisterns, and Rain Bladders)

Pervious Pavement Fact Sheet

Residential Vegetated Filter Strips Fact Sheet

City of Decatur Storm Drainage Policy

IDOT Drainage Manual (runoff coefficient values on page 4-49)
