

STORMWATER

Town of Braselton Stormwater Management Program

All developed properties in a community contribute stormwater runoff to the public drainage system and, in some cases, to recurring drainage problems. Stormwater runoff is water that drains off houses, rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, roads and other surfaces that prohibit the rainfall from soaking into the ground when it rains. This stormwater runoff then flows into the Town's drainage system and eventually, into our streams and creeks with increased speed and high volumes. In addition to potential flooding and erosion problems, the stormwater runoff washes chemicals, debris, trash and other pollutants into the drainage system and our local surface waters.

Management of stormwater runoff has become an increasingly important responsibility for local governments like the Town of Braselton. Recently enacted stormwater regulations, combined with aging infrastructure and deferral of needed capital projects, have created a need for local governments to develop and implement more comprehensive stormwater management programs to achieve compliance with new State and Federal Stormwater Regulations and to address drainage system maintenance issues; high priority capital projects; and development regulations and oversight.

The Town of Braselton Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) is responsible for the management and regulation of stormwater and drainage issues within the Town. A Stormwater Utility has been formed to collect revenues that will be dedicated solely to addressing stormwater management and drainage issues. The following activities have been identified for implementation by the SWMP:

- Achieve Compliance with Applicable State and Federal Regulations
 - NPDES Phase I Stormwater Permit
- Implementation of Capital Drainage Improvement Projects
 - Capital Construction
 - Drainage System Retrofitting
 - Drainage Basin Master planning & Floodplain Mapping Updates
- Drainage System Operations & Maintenance (O&M)
 - Improve Town Responsiveness/Capabilities
 - Enhanced System Inspections
 - Routine & Scheduled Drainage System Cleaning/Repair
 - Capital Replacement of Aging Drainage System Components

The SWMP must undertake various activities including the cleaning of ditches and other stormwater conveyance systems; replacement of aging culverts and drainage structures; and construction of new culvert systems to increase or improve conveyance capacity. In addition, the Town will need to formulate and implement an ongoing regulatory compliance strategy to address new and expanding requirements. The Town will also be implementing an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program that is focused on being more proactive through routine and scheduled drainage system maintenance. In order to successfully implement the SWMP, a Stormwater Utility and user fee charge is being developed to fund the stormwater program. The Stormwater Utility and user fee charges will encompass all residents, businesses, institutions and government facilities because all developed properties generate stormwater runoff.