

**SAVANNAH  
STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM**

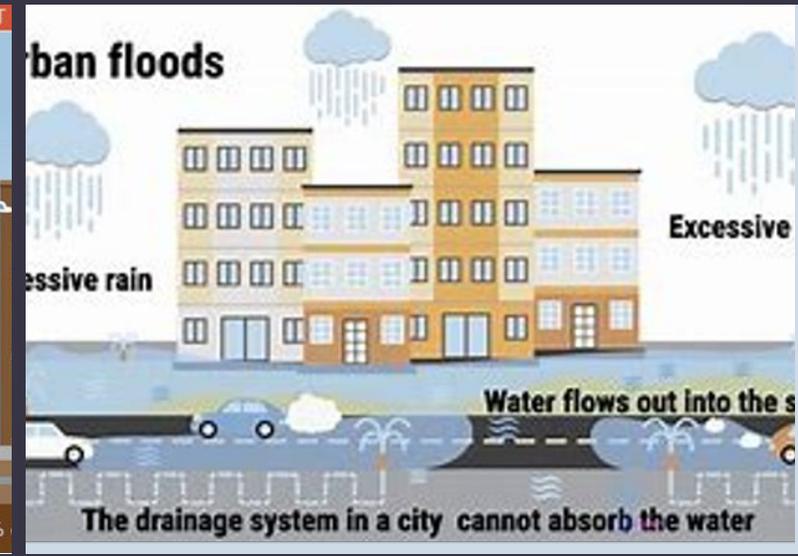
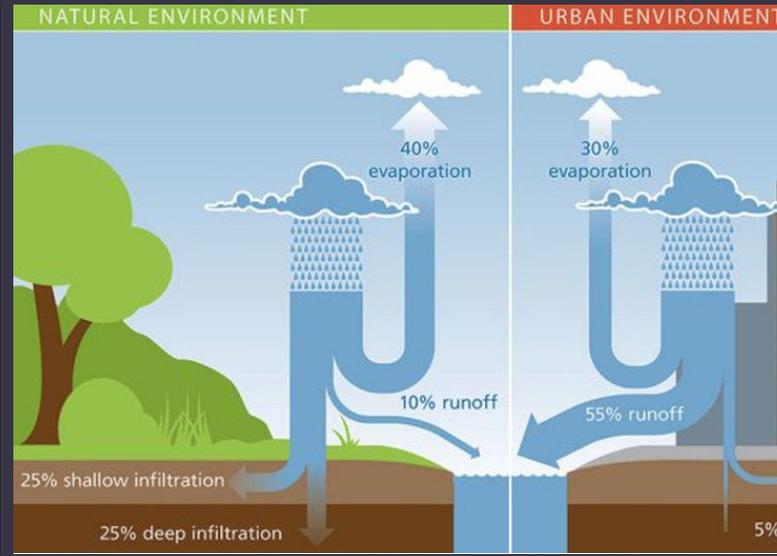
**Neighborhood  
Association  
President's  
Meeting  
September 2025**

# STORMWATER 101



# What Causes Flooding?

- Changes in Land Use
- Excessive Rainfall
- Coastal Flooding
- Riverine Flooding



# Urban Flooding Event



*Example: Rainfall for the month of August (8/1/25 – 8/31/25) for the Savannah area:*

Downtown: **15.2 inches**

West Savannah: **17.5 inches**

Wilmington Island: **15.9 inches**

South Savannah: **21.9 inches**

Southeast Savannah: **26.7 inches**

*Note: The average rainfall for the month of August is typically **6.7 inches!***

# CITY STORMWATER PROGRAM'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES





Drainage System Operations, Maintenance, and Repair



Federal and State Regulatory Permit Compliance



Capital Improvement Program for Flood Control,  
Drainage, and Water Quality

# City Stormwater Management Program





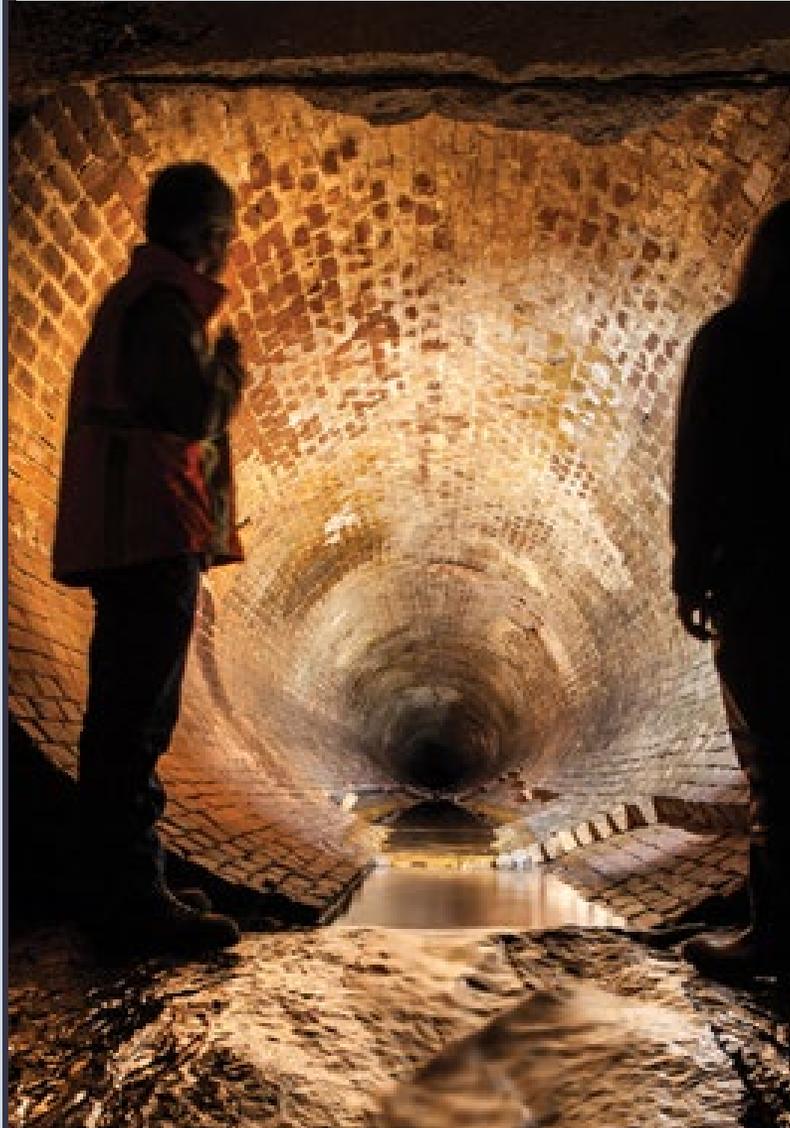
## City Drainage System Data (2025)

- **416 miles** of pipe systems
- **147 miles** of ditches/canals
- **7** pump stations
- **6** stormwater detention ponds
- **31** tide gates
- **14,620** inlets
- **6,423** manholes



# Drainage System Challenges

- System Expansion
- System Age
- Climate Impacts
- Capacity Challenges





## **311 Drainage Work Order Data**

### **2024 (January 1 to December 31)**

- **Total = 595 Work Orders**

### **2025 (through August 15)**

- **Total = 1,245 Work Orders**
- **Projected Total ~ 2,000 (+/-)**

# Neighborhood Catch Basin Maintenance & Best Practices

***ONLY RAIN  
DOWN THE  
DRAIN!!***



# CURRENT STORMWATER PROGRAM FUNDING



# Where Does Current Funding Come From for Stormwater Management?

## Current Funding Sources

- General Fund Revenues (Municipal Taxes)
  - *Property taxes – based on parcel value*
  - *Sales taxes – based on the purchase amount*
- Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)
- Federal and State Grant Funding (Project Specific)
- Public-Private Partnerships (Development Agreements)

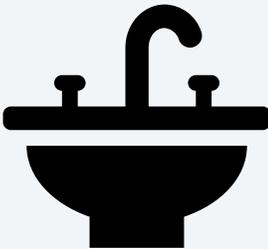
**FUTURE FUNDING  
STRATEGY**

**STORMWATER UTILITY  
CONCEPT**



# Current City Utility Operation & Funding

City Operates Three "Pipe Systems"



WATER



SEWER



STORMWATER

Dedicated User Funding

No Dedicated Funding

# Stormwater Utility Overview

A **user fee-based system** like other City utilities (water, sewer, sanitation)

Revenues are **dedicated specifically to stormwater** management

Customer user fee bill **based on amount of stormwater runoff** potential

Applies to **ALL** developed properties

A more equitable approach to fund stormwater management services

# Future Stormwater Program Funding: 2026+

Expenditures	Gross Amount	Funding Source
Personnel	\$4,320,000	General Fund Taxes
Operations & Maintenance	\$4,000,921	<b>Stormwater Fee</b>
Staff Enhancements & New Equipment	\$1,388,128	<b>Stormwater Fee</b>
Small-scale Capital Projects	\$1,180,000	<b>Stormwater Fee</b>
Bond Funded Capital Construction - Annual Payment*	\$1,500,000*	<b>Stormwater Fee</b>
Contribution to Reserves	\$400,000	<b>Stormwater Fee</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,789,049</b>	

\* Proposed \$24 million in revenue bond funding for capital projects.

# Proposed Service Delivery Enhancements



## MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

- Three additional vactor-jet trucks to clean catch-basins and pipes
- CCTV pipeline inspection vehicle
- Ditch mowing resources



## STAFFING

- Additional staff for maintenance, inspections, and operations
- Increased mowing and hand-clearing of ditches



## CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Pump-station upgrades
- Rehab and replacement of old drainage systems
- Storm sewer rehab and replacement/upsizing to reduce flooding



# Key Stormwater Utility Takeaways



- **Customer Fairness**

A stormwater utility fee is a more equitable service delivery approach.  
*Larger amount of stormwater runoff = Higher stormwater fee*



- **Fee Consistency & Predictable/Stable Revenue**

Customers have a consistent utility bill and the City has revenue stability.  
*The Stormwater Utility revenues are consistent each year for budgeting.*



- **Proactive Maintenance via Enhanced Service Delivery**

Consistent annual revenue for the City Stormwater Program.  
*Implementation of proactive maintenance plans and capital projects.*

# Next Steps

## On-going and Future Engagement Activities

- Community Meetings – April 2025 (complete) and **Fall 2025** (early November)
- Focus Group (Ongoing – August/September 2025)
- Presentations to City Council (November 17 and 25, 2025)
- Educational Materials: [www.savannahga.gov/4083/Stormwater-Utility](http://www.savannahga.gov/4083/Stormwater-Utility)

## Technical Work and Analysis

- Impervious Surface Analysis & Rate Structure Development
- Credit Policies and Customer Manual
- City Customer Service Staff Training

## Recommendation to City Council

- Present Proposed Plan for Consideration – November 2025

**THANK YOU**

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**Chief of Water Resources**

**Denise Grabowski, AICP**  
**Symbioscity**