



STORMWATER CREDIT PROGRAM

The Stormwater Credit Program provides City of Lawrence customers the opportunity to apply for credit to reduce their monthly Stormwater charge as described in Lawrence City Code §16-507 *Adjustment to Stormwater System Drainage Charge (Ordinance 10167)*.

Approved stormwater credits are provided as a percentage reduction of the monthly stormwater charge, intended to help offset the cost of maintaining privately-owned structural stormwater *Best Management Practices* (“BMPs”) required per the City’s Stormwater Management Criteria and adopted regional stormwater criteria, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)/American Public Works Association (APWA) *Section 5600: Stormwater Drainage Systems & Facilities*.

Eligibility Requirements

- Property owner or designee (e.g., representative of a Homeowner’s Association, etc.) must submit a completed application form and any required supporting documentation for approval by the City.
- Property served by the stormwater best management practice (BMP) detention structure must be within the corporate limits of the City.
- BMP must meet the applicable guidelines and technical criteria set forth in the Lawrence Stormwater Credit Criteria manual.
- The maximum surface area of the BMP structure basin must be in a drainage easement dedicated to the City by the owner as required by the [1996-2025 Stormwater Management Criteria](#) and the [2025 Development Code](#), unless otherwise authorized by the MSO Director.
- Applicants must not have overdue Lawrence utility fees against the property.

Available Credit

Eligible property owners may apply for credit up to a cumulative maximum credit of 50% of that property’s calculated Stormwater fee. The capacity or volume of the BMP will be the basis for the credit calculation as described in the Lawrence Credit Criteria manual.

The detention credit is the calculation of the stormwater fee, multiplied by the maximum credit allowed (0.5), multiplied by the ratio of total current storage volume to total design storage volume per site. The resulting percentage will then be rounded up to the next 10%, up to a maximum 50% credit (e.g. 1-10% becomes 10% credit, 11-20% becomes 20% credit, etc.).

Stormwater BMP Type	BMP Benefit Description	Maximum Credit
1. Detention – 100-yr storm	On-site stormwater detention with an approved drainage study designed to meet 1996 Stormwater Management Criteria for a 100-year event.	50%

Alternative compliance may be allowed using the [KC Compliance Calculator](#) from the adopted MARC-APWA criteria. For questions about alternative compliance for credit or to discuss potential credit application variances, submit a stormwater credit application describing the request for alternative compliance.

How to Apply

City staff will reach out to eligible property owners with existing BMP structures to apply for credit. If the application is approved, the credit will be applied to the next billing cycle following the approval. New construction BMP structures should be reviewed during the site plan review process and may be applied for during this process by the applicant.

The following table outlines documentation that may be required to support a credit application:

Documentation	Description
BMP Maintenance Agreement; Operations & Maintenance Plan	An executed BMP Maintenance Agreement and BMP-specific operations and maintenance plan as required by Lawrence City Code §20-1304(g)(2) . An updated agreement or plan may be required as a condition of receiving the credit. A copy of the BMP Maintenance Agreement shall be filed with the county Register of Deeds.
Drainage Easement	If BMP is already within an existing easement, provide the book and page of the existing easement. Lawrence Development code requires BMPs to be located within a drainage easement dedicated to the city and filed with the county Register of Deeds. A drainage easement can be identified on a Plat or can be identified using a legal description with an exhibit and filed by separate instrument with the county. Easement instruments with legal descriptions and exhibits shall be submitted with the credit application for approval prior to filing with the county unless otherwise approved by the MSO Director.
Drainage Study	An approved Drainage Study, if not already on file, demonstrating compliance with the Stormwater Management Criteria, must be on file with the City. For structures constructed between 1996-2025, performance may be documented to the 1996 Criteria allowable rate or retrofitted to meet the 2025 MARC/APWA regional criteria design allowable rates.
Photographs of outflow structures	Recent digital photographs showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pipe or outflow structure with a ruler, yard stick, or tape measure documenting the size of the outflow inner diameter or outflow structure dimensions. Outflow structures must be relatively free of obstructions to stormwater flow and visually appear to be in working condition to be eligible for the credit. • Outflows to open channels should include a photo of the downstream end of the outflow device. • A date the photo was taken must be indicated in the credit application.
Certification Statement	A certification statement completed under the authority of a licensed professional engineer, landscape architect, or other qualified professional as determined by City Code [§9-1101(d)], attesting the BMP is installed and performing as designed.

The City reserves the right to request additional supporting information if the provided information does not clearly support the requested credit. Supporting documentation can be submitted to cover multiple parcels if the BMP serves multiple parcels.

Maintenance Requirements

Owners of credited BMPs must demonstrate through regular inspection reporting and third-party certification that the BMP continues to operate in good condition and is regularly maintained per an approved operations and maintenance plan [[Required per the Lawrence Land Development Code: §20-1304\(g\)\(2\)](#)].

Required Documentation	Description	Frequency
Inspection Report	A signed inspection form completed by the property owner or designee confirming that the BMP is in good condition and maintained per the BMP Maintenance Agreement and maintenance plan.	<i>Annually, on or before the last day of October</i>
Certification Form	A certification completed under the authority of a licensed professional engineer, landscape architect, or other qualified professional as defined by City Code [§9-1101(d)], including a statement that the facility is in good condition and maintained per the BMP Maintenance Agreement and maintenance plan.	<i>Every 5 years, on or before the last day of October</i>

SEND COMPLETED INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTS TO:

Municipal Services & Operations
 Attn: Regulatory & Environmental Services
 City of Lawrence
 6 E. 6th Street
 PO Box 708
 Lawrence, KS 66044-0708

OR BY EMAIL TO: stormwater@lawrenceks.gov

Restrictions

- **Right to Inspection:** The applicant agrees that City of Lawrence staff or inspectors may at reasonable times enter the applicant property to inspect the condition and operation of the stormwater infrastructure for which credits are requested. Failure to permit City inspection will nullify the credit application.
- **Approved stormwater credits are valid for five (5) years** unless a term is otherwise explicitly indicated. The property owner must submit a certification completed by a qualified professional on or before October 31st of the fifth year.
- **The City may at any time revoke the credit for non-compliance** if the eligibility requirements in the Stormwater Credit Criteria Manual or the BMP maintenance standards stated in the Lawrence Stormwater Management Criteria and adopted regional manual are not met or maintained.
- **Approved credits will automatically continue whenever property ownership changes** provided the new owner continues the operation and maintenance activities required by the BMP-specific operations and maintenance plan. The operations and maintenance plan required by the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement remains in effect and is binding upon all subsequent owners of the property.