Georgia's Updated, Adaptive Approach to Stormwater Management

SESWA's 10th Annual Regional Stormwater Conference

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Presenters

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Brief Background

- Why update the "Blue Book"?
 - Original GSMM ~ 15yrs old
 - New and Better Information
 - Approaches have Changed
 - State Water Plan Update
 - Stakeholder Request





What are the Major Changes?

- New Water Quality Performance Standard
- Comprehensive Stormwater Management Approach
- Revised Better Site Design Credits
- New / Updated BMP Sections
- Digital Design Details
- Operations & Maintenance Guidance Document
- Planting & Soil Guidance
- Revised BMP Calculator Tool





Existing Water Quality (WQ) Performance Standard

- MS4 communities are required to adopt the performance standards listed in the permit, which most do not currently include runoff reduction
- All regulated communities are required to meet TSS requirements, except coastal communities. Coastal communities have a runoff reduction requirement.

Stormwater Runoff Quality/Reduction:

All stormwater runoff shall be adequately treated prior to discharge. The stormwater management system shall be designed to remove 80% of the average annual postdevelopment total suspended solids (TSS) load as defined in the GSMM or in the equivalent manual. Compliance with this performance standard is presumed to be met if the stormwater management system is sized to capture and treat the water quality treatment volume, which is defined as the runoff volume resulting from the first 1.2 inches of rainfall from a site. Current GSMM & Most MS4 Permits Requirement - 80% TSS removal from the 1.2inch rainfall event

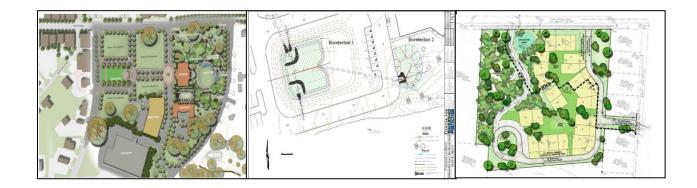
GSMM CSS – Runoff	Criteria	Description
		Reduce the stormwater runoff volume generated by the 85th
reduction of the 1.2-		percentile storm event (and the "first flush" of the stormwater runoff
inch rainfall event	SWM Criteria #1:	volume generated by all larger storm events) on a development site
	Stormwater Runoff	through the use of appropriate green infrastructure practices. In
	Reduction	coastal Georgia, this equates to reducing the stormwater runoff
		volume generated by the 1.2 inch rainfall event (and the stormwater
		runoff generated by the first 1.2 inches of all larger rainfall events).



- While communities do have to adopt the Blue Book, it provides <u>recommended</u>, not required, performance standards
- Includes a water quality runoff reduction option and a water quality treatment option

	KEY CONSIDERATIONS owing eleven (11) standards are recommended performance requirements ment or redevelopment sites:	s for new
•	Standard #1 – Natural Resource Inventory	
•	Standard #2 – Better Site Design Practices for Stormwater Management	
•	Standard #3 – Water Quality	
	 Option A – Water Quality Runoff Reduction 	
L	 Option B – Water Quality Treatment 	
•	Standard #4 – Stream Channel Protection	
•	Standard #5 – Overbank Flood Protection	
•	Standard #6 – Extreme Flood Protection	
•	Standard #7 – Downstream Analysis	
•	Standard #8 – Construction Erosion and Sedimentation Control	
•	Standard #9 – Stormwater Management System Operation and Maintenar	nce
•	Standard #10 – Pollution Prevention	
•	Standard #11 – Stormwater Management Site Plan	





Standard #3 – Water Quality

Stormwater management systems should be designed to *retain or treat the runoff from 85% of the storms that occur in an average year, and reduce average annual post-development total suspended solids loadings by 80%.*



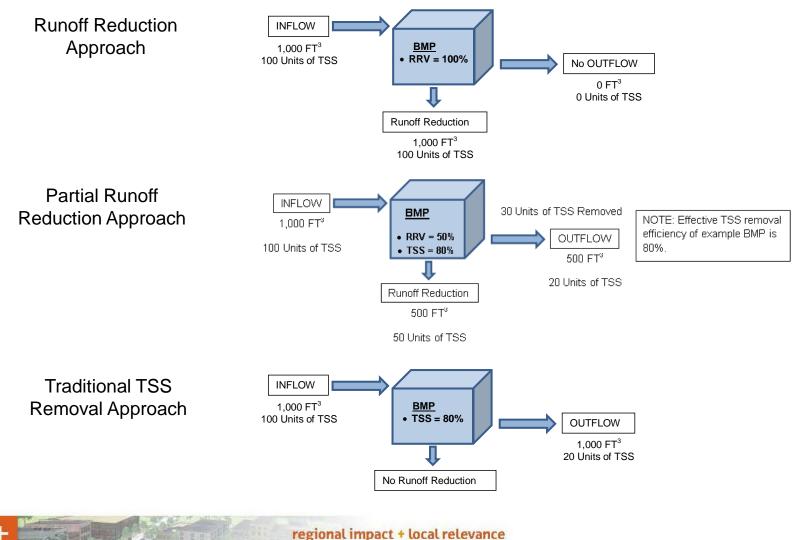
Option A – Water Quality Runoff Reduction

- Runoff reduction practices shall be sized and designed to retain the first 1.0 inch of rainfall on the site, or to the maximum extent practicable.
- Runoff reduction practices inherently reduce TSS and other pollutants to provide water quality treatment (i.e. 100% pollutant removal for stormwater retention, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, or rainwater harvesting and reuse).
- If the entire 1.0-inch runoff reduction standard cannot be achieved, the remaining runoff from the 1.2-inch rainfall event must be treated by BMPs to remove at least 80% of the calculated average annual post-development TSS loading from the site.

Option B – Water Quality Treatment

- Stormwater runoff generated on the development site shall be retained and/or treated by BMPs to remove at least 80% of the calculated average annual post-development total suspended solids (TSS) loading from the site.
- This standard is quantified and expressed in terms of engineering design criteria through the specification of the water quality volume (WQ_v), which is equal to the runoff generated on a site from 1.2 inches of rainfall.
- This can be achieved through the use of BMPs that provide runoff reduction or BMPs that provide treatment.







Comprehensive Stormwater Management Approach

Incentivized implementation of runoff reduction:

- Option A uses 1.0" vs. 1.2"
- 100% of 1.0" is equivalent to 80% of 1.2"

Runoff reduction:

- Reduces post-construction stormwater runoff rates, volumes, and pollutant loads
- Reduces risk of flooding
- Eliminates stormwater runoff (and the pollutants associated with it), rather than treating or detaining runoff
- Provides economic benefits (additional jobs, increased property values, etc)
- Maintains, mimics or replaces landscape hydrologic functions



(Source: Center for Watershed Protection)

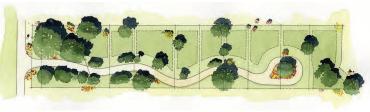


Comprehensive Stormwater Management Approach (cont'd)

Communities are encouraged to:

 Use Green Infrastructure (GI), Low Impact Development (LID), and Better Site Design (BSD)

Case Study: Fox Hollow Development – James Island, SC Located on James Island, South Carolina, Fox Hollow is a 2.65 acre low impact development that protected the trees, wetlands, and topography of the site. Unlike conventional development, where mass grading is common, at Fox Hollow the land has been highly conserved – only enough land for the 9 houses and roadway were cleared. Narrow streets and driveways reduce impervious cover in the development. Rather than relying on pipes, a bioswale system conveys stormwater and bioretention cells replace stormwater ponds. The site has a density of 4.22 homes/acre with 0.52 acres of open space consisting of park, bioretention and wetlands. Named "Best New Community of 2013" by the Charleston Homebuilders Association, Fox Hollow was specifically recognized for its low impact development approach (Ellis et al. 2014).



Site plan for Fox Hollow (Ellis et al, 2014)

Additional Benefits of Implementing LID

In addition to the stormwater and water quality benefits, implementation of LID strategies can provide many additional direct and indirect benefits for homeowners, developers, and communities.

Home Owners

- · Preserved mature trees can shade homes, which typically reduces energy costs.
- Directing stormwater runoff to vegetated areas and utilizing native plants reduces irrigation needs.
- Treating stormwater runoff close to its source with a distributed system may reduce nuisance flooding problems.

Developers

- Preserving natural features and vegetation reduces the cost of land clearing and grading.
- Minimizing impervious cover reduces the cost of infrastructure (sidewalks, curbs, streets, etc.).
- As described in several of the studies highlighted below, incorporating LID into a site design can decrease overall stormwater management costs.
- Mature trees and other vegetative amenities can increase property values.

Communities

- Reduced irrigation demands improve water supply reliability.
 - Infiltrating LID BMPs contribute to groundwater recharge.
- Reduced impervious cover and increased evaporative cooling decreases the urban heat island effect.
- Runoff reduction decreases the magnitude and frequency of combined sewer overflow events.

Cost Effectiveness of LID

Cost issues are among the main objections to implementing LID. However, many studies have shown that properly applied LID approaches and BMPs can be more cost effective than more conventional stormwater management approaches. The list below includes case studies, research, recommendations, and site specific costs for implementing LID:



Better Site Design Credits

- Five existing credits intended to be a bonus, but they go above and beyond what math and science say
- More and better science available to calculate benefits of new BMPs and runoff reduction practices
- The following credits were removed
 - Stream Buffers
 - Grass Channel
 - Overland Flow Infiltration and Groundwater Recharge
 - Environmentally Sensitive Large Lot Subdivisions
- Only remaining credit
 - Natural Area Conservation Credit





BMP Changes/Updates

- Updated existing BMP sections to current industry standards
- New format for Manual
- Added new BMP sections
 - Bioslope
 - Dry Extended Detention Basin
 - Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance
 - Porous Asphalt
- Removed BMP sections
 - Alum Treatment Systems
 - Rain Garden (incorporated in bioretention)









4.2 Bioretention Areas

Description

Shallow stormwater basin or landscaped area that utilizes engineered soils and vegetation to capture and treat runoff.

LID/GI Consideration:

Low land requirement, adaptable comany situations, and often a small BMP used to treat runon ose to the source.



Added LID/GI **Updated Key** Considerations **KEY CONSIDERATIONS** Considerations to assist designers determine **DESIGN CRITERIA** STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SUITABILITY Maximum contributing drainage area of 5 acres what BMP to use Treatment area consists of ponding area, organic/mulch layer, **Runoff Reduction** 63 Requires landscaping plan Water Quality Standing water has a maximum drain time of 24 hours Pretreatment recommended to prevent clogging **Channel Protection** · Ponding depth should be 12 inches or less, 9 inches preferred **Overbank Flood Protection ADVANTAGES / BENEFITS** Extreme Applicable to small drainage areas New landscape format Effective pollutant removals √ in certain situ Appropriate for small areas with high impervious cover, particularly parking lots to make easier to read · Natural integration into landscaping for urban landscape enhancement **IMPLEMENT** · Good retrofit capability · Can be planned as an aesthetic feature Land Requirement **DISADVANTAGES / LIMITATIONS** 0 **Capital Cost** Requires extensive landscaping Maintenance Burden Not recommended for areas with steep slopes · High capital cost and high maintenance burden Residential Subdivision Use: Yes Soils may clog over time (may require cleaning) High Density/Ultra-Urban: Yes Roadway Projects: Yes **Updated Runoff** MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS Soils: Engineered soil media is composed of **Reduction Credit** Inspect and repair/replace treatment area components such as r sand, fines, and organic matter Ensure bioretention area is draining properly so it does not become Other Considerations: Use of native plants is Remove trash and debris recommended · Ensure mulch is 3-4 inches thick in the practice · Requires plant maintenance plan L=Low M=Moderate H=High **RUNOFF REDUCTION CREDIT** POLLUTANT REMOVAL 100% of the runoff reduction volume provided (No underdrain) **Total Suspended Solids** Metals - Cadmium, Copper, Lead, and Zinc removal 75% of the runoff reduction volume provided (inverted underdrain) Nutrients - Total Phosphorus / Total Nitrogen removal 😡 Pathogens – Fecal Coliform 50% of the runoff reduction volume provided (underdrain)

100% TSS removal for the runoff reduction volume provided



85%

4.2 Bioretention Areas

lot grades to divert the WQv into the facility; a splash/erosion prevention pad may be required. Bypass additional runoff to a downstream catch basin inlet. Requires temporary ponding in the parking lot (see

Figure 4.2.3-4). Figure 4.2.3-4 deflector wei designed to quality peak area.

Updated physical specifications

 An in-system overflow consisting of an overflow catch basin inlet and/or a pea gravel curtain drain overflow.

See Figure 4.2.3-5 for an overview of the various components of a bioretention area. For an example of a bioretention area without an underdrain see Figure 4.2.3-6

4.2.5.3 Physical Specifications/ Geometry

Recommended minimum dimensions of a bioretention area are 3-6% of the total drainage area though modeling is recommended to accurately size the area.

- · The planting media should have a drain time of 24 hours and a coefficient of permeability (k) of 2-4 ft/dav.
- The maximum recommended ponding depth of the bioretention areas is 12 inches.
- A grass channel can be used for pretreatment. The length of the grass channel depends on the drainage area, land use, and channel slope. Design guidance on grass channels for

pretreatment can be found in subsection 4.9 (Grass Channel). A pea gravel diaphragm flow spreader can also be used.

- The mulch layer should consist of 3 to 4 inches of triple-shredded hardwood mulch. This provides additional benefits such as removing sediment and metals and retaining soil moisture.
- The planting media used within bioretention area planting beds should be an engineered soil mix that meets the following specifications:
- Texture: Sandy loam or loamy sand.
- » Sand Content: Soils should contain 35%-60% clean, washed sand.
- » Topsoil Content: Soils should contain 20%-30% topsoil.
- » Organic Matter Content: Soils should contain 10%-25% organic matter.
- » Clay: 15%
- » Infiltration Rate: Soils Updated infiltration rate of at le hour (in/hr), although between 1 and 2 in/h
- » Phosphorus Index (P-I P-Index of less than 30
- a CEC that exceeds 10 milliequivalents (meg) per 100 grams of dry weight.
- » pH: Soils should have a pH of 6-8.
- Where needed, the underdrain collection system should be equipped with a 6-inch perforated PVC pipe (AASHTO M 252) in an 8-inch gravel layer. The pipe should have 3/8inch perforations, spaced at 6-inch centers, with a minimum of 4 holes per row. The pipe is

spaced at a maximum of 10 feet on center and a minimum grade of 0.5% must be maintained. A permeable geotextile is placed between the gravel layer and the planting media.

- To prevent damage to building foundations and contamination of groundwater aquifers, bioretention areas, unless equipped with a waterproof liner (e.g., 30 mil (0.030 inch) polyvinylchloride (PVC) or equivalent), should be located at least:
 - » 10 feet from building foundations
 - » 10 feet from property lines
 - » 100 feet from private water supply wells
 - » 1,200 feet from public water supply wells
 - » 100 feet from septic systems
 - » 100 feet from surface waters
 - » 400 feet from public water supply surface waters

4.2.5.4 Pretreatment/Inlets

dequate pretreatment and inlet protection or bioretention systems is provided when all f the following are provided: grass filter strip elow a level spreader (grass channel) or an rganic or mulch layer.

4.2.5.5 Outlet Structures

 Outlet structures should be included in the design of a bioretention configuration to ensure that larger storms can be bypassed without damaging the practice. Exceptions include small bioretention basins with flow bypass structures. Outlet configurations can include riser boxes and/or emergency spillway channels.



specifications for the location of the

- BMP » Exchange Capacity (CLC). Solis should

4.2 Bioretention Areas

usina the

Updated design

steps based on

runoff reduction

incorporated

calculations

new research and

Step 3. Calculate the Stormwater Runoff

Reduction Volume.

Calculate the Runoff Reduction Volu following formula:

RRV = (P) (RV) (A) / 12

Where:

- RRV = Runoff Reduction Volume
- (acre-feet)
- P = Target runoff reduction rainfall (inches)
- RV = Volumetric runoff coefficient can be found by:
- RV = 0.05+0.009(I)

Where:

- I = new impervious area of the site (%)
- A = Site area (acres)
- 12 = Unit conversion factor (in/ft)

Step 4. Determine the total runoff volume and bioretention footprint.

Calculate the Water Quality Volume (WQv), Channel Protection Volume (Cpv), Overbank Flood Protection Volume (Qp), and the Extreme Flood Volume (Qf).

Details on the Unified Stormwater Sizing Criteria are found in Section 2.1.

The peak rate of discharge for the water quality design storm is needed for sizing of off-line diversion structures (see subsection 2.1.7).

(a) Using WQv (or total volume to be captured), compute CN

(b) Compute time of concentration using TR-55 method

(c) Determine appropriate unit peak discharge from time of concentration

e Qwq from unit peak discharge, aa, and WQv.

e the minimum surface area of the basin, use the following formula:

(d,) / [(k) (hf + df) (tf)]

- area of ponding area (ft²)
- WQ = water quality volume (or total volume to be captured)
- d_f = media depth
- k = coefficient of permeability of planting media (ft/day) (use 0.5 ft/day for silt-loam)
- h_f = average height of water above bioretention area bed (ft)
- t_f = design planting media drain time (days) (2 - 3 days is recommended maximum)

Step 5. Size flow diversion structure, if needed. A flow regulator (or flow splitter diversion structure) should be supplied to divert the WQv to the bioretention area.

Size low flow orifice, weir, or other device to pass $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{wa}}$

Step 6. Determine the Pretreatment Volume. Pretreat with a grass filter strip (on-line configuration) or grass channel (off-line), and stone diaphragm as needed. Pretreatment may also be desired to reduce flow velocities or assist in sediment removal and maintenance. Pretreatment can include forebay, weir, or check dam. Splash blocks or level spreaders should be considered to dissipate concentrated stormwater runoff at the inlet and prevent scour.

Step 7. Size underdrain system.

See subsection 4.2.5 (Physical Specifications/ Geometry)

Step 8. Design emergency overflow.

An overflow must be provided to bypass and/or

convey larger flows to system or stabilized v locities need to be en

Step 9. Prepare Veget A landscaping plan fo be prepared to indica with vegetation.

BMPs d

Added new

recently built

photos of

See section 4.2.5.7 (La ccaping) and Appendix D for more details.

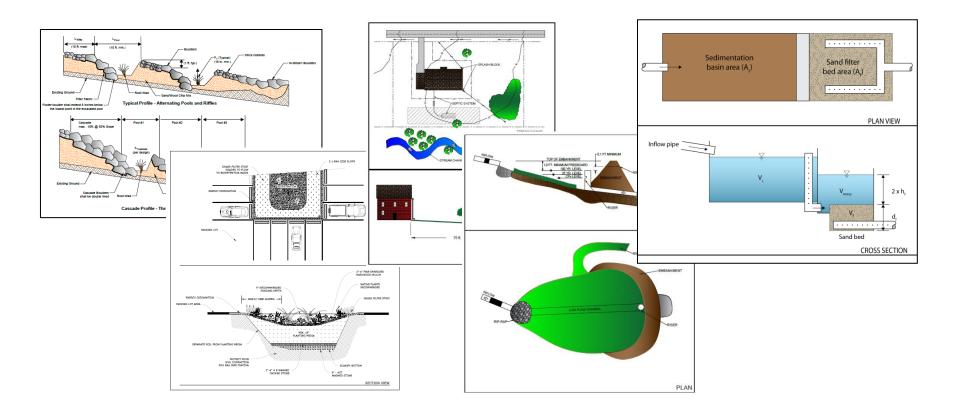


Online Biorentention Area



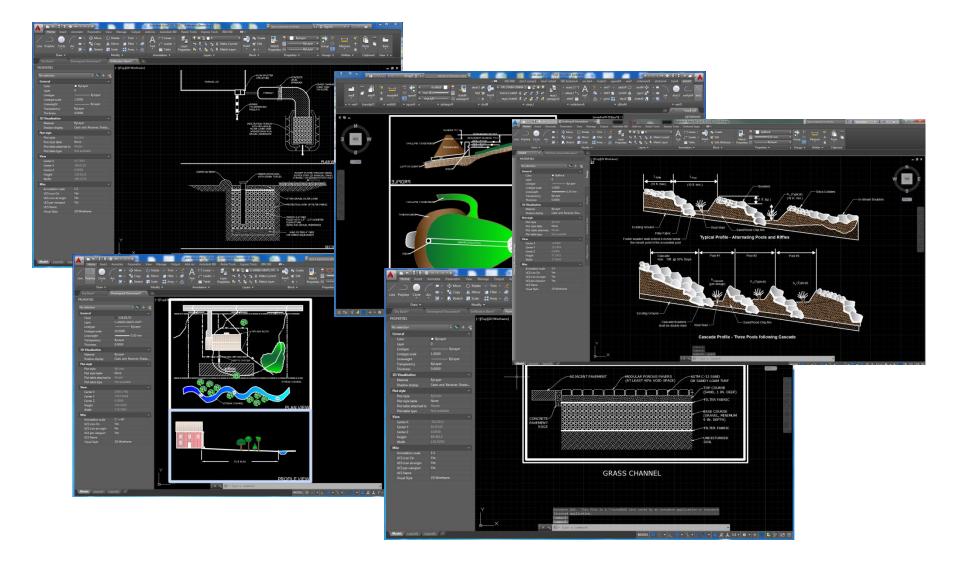
Updated Graphics

Graphics were updated based on new research for BMPs





Digital Design Details



Updates to Appendices

Removed:

- Computer Models
- Georgia Safe Dams Act
- Miscellaneous Specifications

Added Reference to:

- Rainfall Data for Georgia on NOAA Site
- Soils Information for Georgia





Updates to Appendix D: Planting and Soil Guidance

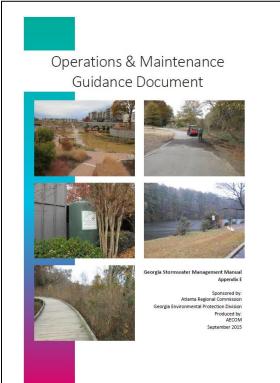
- Additional information on trees and shrubs
- Updates on site characteristics and soil including soil tests, utilizing on-site soils, and utilizing a manufactured soil media.
- Information and characteristics on plant selection
- Included planting media characteristics
- Requirements for landscape plans
- Additional information on establishing vegetation and maintenance





New Operation and Maintenance Guidance Document

- Reference for inspectors and maintenance workers detailing the following:
 - Key Components of a BMP
 - Importance of Inspecting a BMP
 - Maintenance Agreements
 - General Maintenance
 - Vegetation Maintenance





New Operation and Maintenance Guidance Document

Bioretention Areas

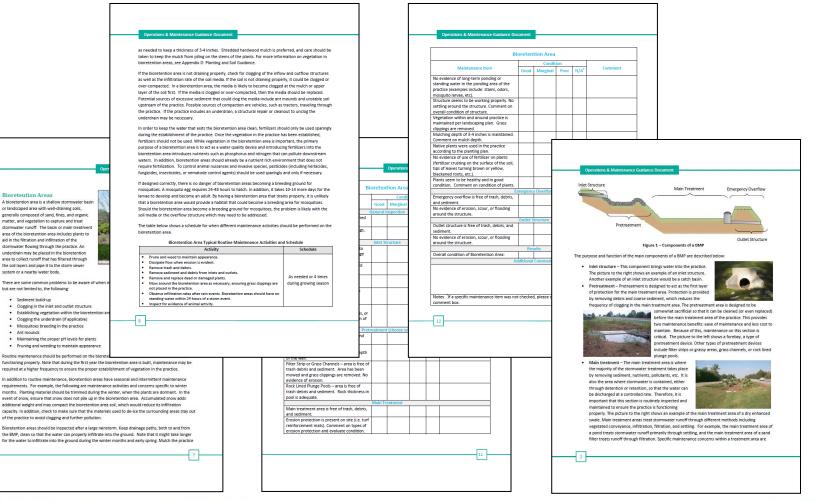
aid in the filtration and infiltration of the

system or a nearby water body

Sediment build-up

Ant mounds

but are not limited to, the following





BMP Maintenance and Inspection Checklists

- Each BMP includes:
 - A description of how the BMP functions
 - A typical photo
 - Common maintenance issues
 - Key maintenance items
 - Typical routine maintenance activities and schedule
 - Inspection checklists

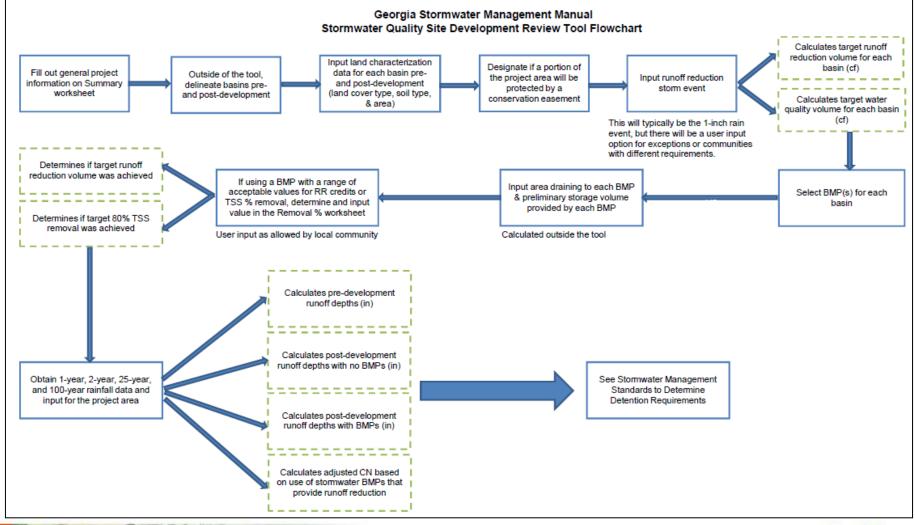








Updated BMP Calculator Tool







Updated BMP Calculator Tool

Site Data Indicate Pre-Development Land Cover and Runoff Curve Numbers in the Site's Disturbed Area Soll Type A Soll Type B Soll Type D (acres) CN CN Soll Type C (acres) CN CN Total % Cover (acres) (acres) 55 30 0.00 0% 0 0 0.00 0% 0% 0.00 0.00 0% 0.00 0% 0 65 5.00 100% 5.00 0.00 0% 0.00 5.00 0.00 0.00 5.00 100% 0.00 Impervious (ac Weighted CI 65 5.38 Indicate Post-Development Land Cover and Runoff Curve Numbers in the Site's Disturbed Area Soll Type B Soll Type A CN Soll Type D (acres) CN Total CN Soll Type C (acres) CN % Cover (acres) (acres) Open space - Good condition (grass cover > 75%) Impervious 2.00 39 2.00 61 74 80 40% 98 3.00 98 98 98 3.00 60% 0.00 0% 0.00 0% 0 n 0.00 0% 0.00 5.00 0.00 0.00 5.00 100% Impervious (ad 3.00 0.59 R Weighted Ch 83 2.02

	Runoff Reduction %	Effective TSS Removal %	Does the BMP provide storage for runoff reduction?	Drainage Area Restrictions		Min/Max
Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance (C & D hydrologic soils)	10%	80%	Yes	50	acres	Max
Sand Filters	0%	80%	Yes	10	acres	Max
Site Reforestation/Revegetation	0%	0%	No			
Soil Restoration (used to remediate C & D soils)	0%	0%	No			
Stormwater Planters / Tree Boxes	50%	80%	Yes	2500	ft ²	Max
Stormwater Ponds	0%	80%	Yes	10-25	acres	Min
Stormwater Wetlands – Level 1	0%	80%	No	5	acres	Min
Stormwater Wetlands – Level 2	0%	85%	No	5	acres	Min
Submerged Gravel Wetlands	0%	80%	No	5	acres	Min
Underground Detention	0%	0%	No			
Vegetated Filter Strips (A & B hydrologic soils)	50%	60%	No			
Vegetated Filter Strips (C & D hydrologic soils)	25%	60%	No			
[User Input 1]						
[User Input 2]						
[User Input 3]						

New look and feel



regional impact + local relevance

Allows flexibility for local requirements

Cover Type

Other

Total

Cover Type

Other Total

Woods - Good Condition

Select a land cover type. Select a land cover type.

Select a land cover type.

Select a land cover type.

Select a land cover type. Select a land cover type. Select a land cover type.

Local Jurisdiction Input

Local Jurisdiction Input

Updated BMP Calculator Tool

		Pervious Cover Area (acres)	Impervious Cover Storage Volume Area Provided by (acres) (cf)			Runoff Reduction Calculations						
				Downstream BMP	₩Q Volume from Direct Drainage (cf)	Volume from Upstream Practices (cf)	Total Volume Received by BMP (cf)	Runoff Reduction %	Runoff Reduction Achieved (cf)	Remaining Volume (cf)	Effective TSS Removal %	
BMP 1	Downspout Disconnects (A & B hydrologic soils)		0.50		BMP 2	2,069	O	2,069	50%	1,035	1,035	80%
3 M P 2	Bioretention Basins (¥lo underdrain)	1.00	2.00	8,500		8,494	1,035	9,529	100%	8,500	1,029	100%
BMP 3	Grass Channels (A & B hydrologic soils)	1.00	0.50			2,287	0	2,287	25%	572	1,715	50%
BMP 4	Select a BMP_					0	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
BMP 5	Select a BMP_					0	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
BMP 6	Select a BMP_					0	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
BMP 7	Select a BMP_					0	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
BMP 8	Select a BMP_					2	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
	TOTALS UNTREATED AREA (acres)	2.00 0.00	3.00 0.00	8,500			j			10,106		
Target Runoff Reduction Volume (cf) 10,709 Target Achieved? No Remaining Runoff Reduction Volume (cf) 602 Trains or individual												
	% TSS Removal Achieved Target Achieved? Remaining TSS Removal %	88% Yes! 0%				E	BMPs					
				unoff redu	cally calcu uction and al achieve	TSS						





QUESTIONS?

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