

Chapter 21.5 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT*

***Editor's note:** Ord. No. 003-12, adopted March 18, 2003, amended ch. 21.5 in its entirety and enacted similar provisions as set out herein. The former ch. 21.5 derived from Ord. No. 093-55, §§ 1--14, adopted Dec. 14, 1993; Ord. No. 097-61, adopted Nov. 18, 1997; Ord. No. 097-80, adopted Dec. 16, 1997; and Ord. No. 000-88, adopted Oct. 17, 2000.

Cross references: Stormwater management facilities in CRPA, § 11-19; stormwater management plan for Chesapeake Bay preservation area overlay district, § 22-94; discharge of stormwater, etc., § 25-122.

Art. I. In General, §§ 21.5-1--25.1-15

Art. II. Stormwater Pollution and Illicit Discharge, §§ 21.5-16--21.5-22

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 21.5-1. Introduction.

(a) *Purpose.*

(1) The board of supervisors desires to protect the safety, welfare, and property of Stafford County residents and businesses, and the quality of waters within Stafford County. The board recognizes that development tends to degrade these waters through increased flooding, stream channel erosion, and the transport and deposition of waterborne pollutants. This degradation is due, in part, to increased stormwater runoff as property is developed. The regulation of stormwater runoff from developments can control the negative impacts of generating increased flooding, erosion, and nonpoint source pollutant runoff. Hence, the board has determined that it is in the public interest to establish requirements, which regulate the discharge of stormwater runoff from developments.

(2) The purpose of this chapter is to establish minimum stormwater management requirements which: Protect the safety and welfare of Stafford County residents and businesses; reduce flood damage to property; minimize the impacts of increased stormwater runoff from new land development; maintain the adequacy of existing and proposed culverts, bridges, dams, and other structures; prevent, to the greatest extent feasible, an increase in nonpoint source pollution; maintain the integrity of stream channels for their biological functions and drainage; minimize the impact of development upon stream erosion; and preserve and protect water supply facilities from increased flood discharges, stream erosion, and nonpoint source pollution.

(b) *Statutory authority.* This chapter is enacted in accordance with the Stormwater Management Act (section 10.1-603 et seq., Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended).

(c) *Conflict of provisions.* In any case where the requirements of this chapter conflict with any other provisions of the Stafford County Code, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall apply. Approvals issued pursuant to this chapter do not relieve the applicant of the responsibility to secure applicable federal, state, or local permits or approvals for regulated activities. When any referenced code citation is amended, the amended code shall be the applied standard.

(d) *Severability.* If any part of this chapter, or application thereof of this chapter to any person, property, or circumstance is held invalid by a court of the competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this chapter and its application to other persons, property or circumstances shall not be affected.

(e) *Administration.* This chapter shall be administered and enforced by the program administrator. The program administrator or designee, upon proper identification, shall have the right to enter upon any land for the purpose of making an inspection or acquiring information to determine whether or not the property conforms to the requirements of this chapter.

(f) *Applicability.*

(1) Except as provided for in subsection (f)(2), all land development projects within Stafford County shall comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(2) The following activities shall be exempt from this chapter:

a. Permitted surface or deep mining operations and projects, or oil and gas operations and projects conducted under the provisions of title 45.1, Code of

Virginia.

b. Tilling, planting, or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural, or forest crops.

c. Linear development projects, provided that (i) less than one acre of land will be disturbed per outfall or watershed, (ii) there will be insignificant increases in peak flow rates, and (iii) there are no existing or anticipated flooding or erosion problems downstream of the discharge points.

d. Single-family detached residences separately built and not part of a subdivision, including additions or modifications to existing single-family detached residential structures, provided that all applicable requirements of section 28-62 (Chesapeake Bay preservation area overlay districts) of the Code are met.

e. Structures considered ancillary to single-family detached and semidetached residences, duplexes, and townhouses, including, but not limited to, garages, decks, patios, and barns provided that all applicable requirements of section 28-62 (Chesapeake Bay preservation area overlay districts) of the Code are met.

f. Land development projects that disturb less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet of land.

(g) *Incorporation by reference.* For the purpose of this chapter, the following documents are incorporated by reference:

(1) Stafford County Stormwater Management Design Manual prepared by Stafford County, Virginia, dated March 2003 and subsequent modifications and updates thereof.

(2) Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Volumes I and II, prepared by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation dated 1999 and subsequent modifications and updates thereof.

(3) Low-Impact Development Design Strategies: An Integrated Design Approach, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, EPA 841-B-00-003 dated June 1999 and subsequent modifications and updates thereof.

(4) Low-Impact Development Hydrologic Analysis, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, EPA 841-B-00-002 dated June 1999 and subsequent modifications and updates thereof.

(h) *Definitions.*

Adequate channel means a natural or manmade channel which is capable of conveying runoff from a ten-year storm without overtopping its banks and from a two-year storm without eroding. A pipe or storm sewer system is adequate if runoff from a ten-year storm is contained within the system.

Applicant means any person submitting a stormwater management plan for approval.

As-built plan means a set of engineering or site drawings that adequately depict stormwater management facilities and stormwater drainage systems as they were actually constructed.

Best management practice (BMP) means a structural or nonstructural practice, which is designed to minimize the impacts of development on surface or groundwater systems.

Channel means a natural stream or artificial watercourse with a definite bed and banks that conducts continuously or periodically flowing water.

Development means a tract of land developed or to be developed as a unit under single ownership or unified control that is to be used for any business or industrial purpose or is to contain three (3) or more residential dwelling units.

Flooding means a volume of water that is too great to be confined within the banks or walls of

the stream, water body, or conveyance system, and that overflows onto adjacent lands, causing or threatening damage.

Floodplain means the floodplain districts defined in chapter 28 (zoning ordinance) of this Code as being areas subject to inundation by waters of the hundred-year flood.

Hotspot means an area where the land use or activities are considered to generate runoff with concentrations of pollutants in excess of those typically found in stormwater.

Integrated management practice means low-impact development microscale and distributed management techniques used to maintain predevelopment site hydrology. Integrated management practices shall include bioretention facilities, dry wells, filter/buffer strips, grassed swales, rain barrels, cisterns, infiltration trenches and amended soils as specified in the low-impact development design manuals.

Land development or *land development project* means a manmade change to the land surface that potentially changes its runoff characteristics.

Linear development project means a land development project that is linear in nature such as, but not limited to, (i) the construction of electric and telephone utility lines and natural gas pipelines; (ii) construction of tracks, rights-of-way, bridges, communication facilities and other related structures of a railroad company; and (iii) highway construction projects.

Low-impact development means a hydrologically functional site design with pollution-prevention measures to reduce impacts and compensate for development impacts on hydrology and water quality.

Low-impact development design manuals refers to the Low-Impact Development Design Strategies: An Integrated Design Approach Manual and the Low-Impact Development Hydrologic Analysis Manual as incorporated by reference in this chapter.

Maintenance agreement means a legally binding agreement between the landowner of a stormwater management structure and Stafford County outlining each party's responsibility towards the operation, maintenance and general upkeep of said structure.

Maintenance plan means a component of the stormwater management design plan describing the stormwater management structures at the land development project and identifying maintenance items that will be performed by the landowner to ensure proper functioning of said structures.

Nonpoint source pollution means pollution consisting of constituents such as sediment, nutrients, and organic and toxic substances from diffuse sources, such as runoff from urban land development and use.

Nonstructural stormwater practice means a stormwater runoff treatment technique which uses natural measures to reduce pollutant levels, does not require extensive construction efforts and/or promotes pollution reduction by eliminating the pollutant source.

Off-site stormwater management facility means a stormwater management facility located outside the subject property boundary described in the stormwater management design plan for the land development activity.

On-site stormwater management facility means a stormwater management facility located within the subject property boundary described in the stormwater management design plan for the land development activity.

Overcompensation means the extra water quantity or quality control provided at one site discharge point in order to allow another discharge point(s) to go uncontrolled.

Person means any firm, association, organization, partnership, trust, company, or corporation, as well as an individual.

Postdevelopment refers to the conditions that reasonably may be expected or anticipated to exist after completion of the land development activity on a specific site or tract of land.

Predevelopment refers to the land condition that exists at the time that plans for the land development are submitted to the locality. Where phased development or plan approval occurs (preliminary grading, roads, and utilities, etc.), the existing land use at the time the first item is submitted shall establish predevelopment conditions.

Pretreatment means the techniques employed in a stormwater management plan to provide storage or filtering to help trap coarse materials before they enter the stormwater BMP. Pretreatment is required on some BMPs to help avoid costly maintenance.

Program administrator means the county administrator or his designee.

Redevelopment means the process of developing land that is or has been previously developed.

Regional stormwater management facility (regional facility) means a facility or series of facilities designed to control stormwater runoff from a specific watershed and for one or more developments.

Runoff means that portion of precipitation that is discharged across the land surface or through conveyances to one or more waterways.

Stormwater drainage means the collection and conveyance of storm and other surface flows through the land development project in a manner to prevent flooding of structures and associated properties and erosion of channels. Stormwater drainage systems shall include stormwater conveyance channels, storm sewers and culverts.

Stormwater management means the collection, conveyance, storage, treatment, and disposal of stormwater runoff in a manner to prevent accelerated channel erosion, increased flood damage, and degradation of water quality.

Stormwater management concept plan means a generalized plan provided with the preliminary plan of subdivision or preliminary site development plan describing how stormwater runoff through and from a land development project will be conveyed and controlled.

Stormwater management design manuals refers to the Stafford County Stormwater Management Design Manual and the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook as incorporated by reference in this chapter.

Stormwater management design plan means a set of drawings and supporting documents that comprises all of the information and specifications for the systems and structures that will be used to convey and control stormwater runoff in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

Stormwater management extended detention basin (extended detention basin) means a stormwater management facility that temporarily impounds runoff and discharges it through a hydraulic outlet structure over a specified period of time to a downstream conveyance system for the purpose of water quality enhancement or stream channel erosion control. Since an extended detention facility impounds runoff only temporarily, it is normally dry during nonrainfall periods.

Stormwater management facility means a device that controls stormwater runoff and changes the characteristics of that runoff including, but not limited to, the quantity and quality, the period of release, or the velocity of flow.

Stormwater management filtering system means a stormwater treatment practice that utilizes an artificial media [medium] to filter out pollutants. Filtering systems shall include bioretention facilities and sand filters, as specified in the Virginia Stormwater Management Design Manuals.

Stormwater management infiltration facility means a stormwater management facility that temporarily impounds runoff and discharges it via infiltration through the surrounding soil. Infiltration facilities shall include infiltration basins, infiltration trenches, dry wells and porous pavement as specified in the stormwater management design manuals.

Stormwater management open channel system means a vegetated open channel designed to

remove pollutants from stormwater runoff by filtration through grass and infiltration into the soil.

Stormwater management retention basin (retention basin) means a stormwater management facility that temporarily impounds runoff and discharges it through a hydraulic outlet structure to a downstream conveyance system, and also includes a permanent impoundment. Therefore, it is normally wet, even during nonrainfall periods.

Stormwater management wetland means an area intentionally designed and created to emulate the water quality improvement function of wetlands for the primary purpose of removing pollutants from stormwater.

Watershed means a defined land area drained by a river, stream or drainage way, or system of connecting rivers, streams or drainage ways such that all surface water within the area flows through a single outlet.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Sec. 21.5-2. Stormwater management technical criteria.

(a) General.

(1) Site designs shall minimize the generation of stormwater and maximize pervious areas for stormwater treatment. Structural and nonstructural infiltration BMPs shall be encouraged to provide stormwater quality and quantity control and groundwater recharge.

(2) Natural channel characteristics shall be preserved to the maximum extent practicable.

(3) Residential, commercial or industrial developments shall apply these stormwater management criteria to land development as a whole. Individual residential lots in new subdivisions shall not be considered separate land development projects, but rather the entire subdivision shall be considered a single land development project. Hydrologic parameters shall reflect the ultimate land development and shall be used in all engineering calculations.

(4) The design criteria, methodologies and construction specifications for all stormwater management facilities, and structural and nonstructural BMPs shall be those of the stormwater management design manuals. The design shall be certified by a professional licensed in Virginia to perform such work.

(5) Predevelopment and postdevelopment runoff rates shall be verified by calculations that are consistent with good engineering practices and methodologies found in the stormwater management design manuals.

(6) Outflows from a stormwater management facility shall be discharged to an adequate channel, and velocity dissipaters shall be placed at the outfall of all stormwater management facilities and along the length of any outfall channel as necessary to provide a nonerosive velocity of flow from the facility to a channel.

(7) Safety measures shall be incorporated into the design of all stormwater management facilities in accordance with the stormwater management design manuals.

(8) Stormwater management facilities shall be designed to minimize the propagation of insects, particularly mosquitoes, provided that design features proposed will not negatively impact the functions of the facility.

(9) Impounding structures that are not covered by the Virginia Impounding Structures Regulations (4VAC50-20-10, et seq.) shall be engineered for structural integrity during the 100-year storm event in accordance with the stormwater management design

manuals.

(10) All stormwater management facilities shall have a maintenance plan and agreement, which identifies the owner and responsible party for carrying out the maintenance plan in accordance with section 21.5-5.

(11) Storm drainage easements shall be required on lots or parcels where the conveyance, storage or treatment of stormwater is proposed or can reasonably be expected to occur. These drainage easements shall be located in accordance with the provisions of section 22-152 (Lots for stormwater management facilities) of the Code and shall be computed and identified on the plat of record prior to recordation in accordance with the stormwater management design manuals.

(12) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter or waivers or exemptions thereto, land development projects shall comply with chapter 11 (Erosion and Sediment Control) and section 28-62 (Chesapeake Bay preservation area overlay districts) of the Code.

(13) Construction of stormwater management facilities or modifications to channels shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Evidence of all applicable federal and state permits required for construction of the facility shall be presented to the program administrator prior to issuance of a grading permit.

(14) If stormwater management facilities are provided through which water passes at times other than rainfall, the program administrator shall be consulted to ensure the appropriateness of design prior to submission of the stormwater management design plan. This applies to all onstream or online stormwater management facilities.

(15) Construction of stormwater management impoundment structures within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated floodplain shall be avoided to the extent possible. When this is unavoidable, all stormwater management facility construction shall be in compliance with all applicable requirements of the flood hazard overlay district as defined in chapter 28 (zoning ordinance) of this Code.

(b) *Water quality.*

(1) For land development, the postdeveloped stormwater runoff shall be treated by an appropriate technology-based water quality BMP(s) based on the imperviousness of the drainage area as specified in the stormwater management design manuals.

(2) The selected water quality BMP(s) shall be located, designed and maintained to perform at or higher than the target pollutant removal efficiency identified in the stormwater management design manuals.

(3) The following water quality BMPs shall be used to satisfy the applicable water quality control requirements in this subsection:

- a. Stormwater management retention and extended detention basins;
- b. Stormwater management wetlands;
- c. Stormwater management infiltration facilities;
- d. Stormwater management filtering systems;
- e. Stormwater management open channel systems;
- f. Low-impact development site planning and integrated management practices in accordance with subsection (e); and
- g. Regional stormwater management facilities in accordance with subsection (f).

(4) Innovative and alternative water quality BMPs may be allowed for land development

at the discretion of the program administrator subject to pollutant removal efficiencies recognized by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

(5) When a land development project contains or is divided by multiple drainage areas, water quality BMPs shall be evaluated for each drainage area. If a portion of the site is left uncontrolled or a portion of the site is treated with a lower than target pollutant removal efficiency BMP, the program administrator may require performance-based water quality calculations to verify total site water quality compliance in accordance with methodologies in the stormwater management design manuals. Overcompensation of water quality shall be in accordance with requirements outlined in the stormwater management design manuals.

(6) Water quality BMPs shall have an acceptable form of water quality pretreatment in accordance with pretreatment requirements found in the stormwater management design manuals.

(7) Stormwater discharges from stormwater hotspots may require the use of specific structural BMPs and pollution prevention practices. Stormwater from a hotspot shall not be infiltrated without proper pretreatment.

(8) All redevelopment projects not served by an existing water quality BMP shall reduce post-development pollutant loads to ninety (90) percent of predevelopment levels through the reduction of site impervious areas or the application of water quality BMPs in accordance with performance-based criteria in the stormwater management design manuals. For redevelopment of any property that is currently and adequately served by one or more water quality BMPs, the postdevelopment pollution load shall not exceed the predevelopment pollution load.

(c) *Stream channel erosion.*

(1) Properties and receiving waterways downstream of any land development project shall be protected from erosion and damage due to increases in volume, velocity and frequency of peak flow rate of stormwater runoff in accordance with the minimum design standards set out in this subsection.

(2) The land development project shall provide twenty-four-hour extended detention of runoff generated by the one-year, twenty-four-hour-duration storm.

(3) The extended detention storage volume, release rate and orifice size shall be determined using the design methods in the stormwater management design manuals.

(4) Stream channel erosion impacts to receiving streams due to land development projects shall be addressed for each point of discharge from the development project.

(5) In lieu of extended detention of the one-year storm, land development may provide channel improvements, nonstructural practices, low impact development site design or other measures satisfactory to the program administrator to prevent channel erosion.

(d) *Flooding.*

(1) Downstream properties and waterways shall be protected from localized flooding due to increases in volume, velocity and peak flow rate of stormwater runoff in accordance with the minimum design standards set out in this subsection.

(2) The ten-year storm post-developed peak rate of runoff from the development site shall not exceed the ten-year predeveloped rate.

(3) The design storm shall be defined as either a twenty-four-hour storm using the rainfall distribution recommended by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (i.e., Soil Conservation Service) when using Soil Conservation Service methods or as the storm of critical duration that produces the greatest required storage volume at the

site when using a design method such as the rational method.

Selection of appropriate hydrology method and corresponding calculations shall be in accordance with requirements of the stormwater management design manuals.

(4) For the purposes of computing runoff, all pervious lands in the site shall be assumed prior to development to be in good condition (if lands are pastures, lawns or parks), with good cover (if lands are woods), or with conservation treatment (if lands are cultivated), regardless of conditions existing at time of computation.

(5) Determination of flooding impacts to receiving streams due to land development projects shall be measured at each point of discharge from the development project and such determination shall include any runoff from the balance of the watershed, which also contributes to that point of discharge. Overcompensation of ten-year peak controls shall be in accordance with requirements of the stormwater management design manuals.

(6) Linear development projects shall not be required to control postdeveloped stormwater runoff for flooding, except in accordance with watershed or regional stormwater management plan.

(e) *Low-impact development sites.*

(1) The use of low-impact development site planning and integrated management practices shall be encouraged to control stormwater runoff at the source and more closely approximate predevelopment runoff conditions.

(2) Low-impact development stormwater management design plans developed consistent with the requirements of this subsection shall satisfy the water quality and quantity performance criteria of subsections (b), (c) and (d).

(3) The design criteria, hydrologic analysis and computational procedures for low-impact development stormwater management design plans shall be those of the low-impact development design manuals.

(4) Low-impact development stormwater management design plans shall not conflict with existing state or Stafford County laws, ordinances, regulations or policies.

(5) Storm drainage easements shall be recorded to identify the locations of integrated management practices on lots or parcels. The property owner shall not remove or structurally alter integrated management practices without prior written approval from the program administrator.

(6) Stormwater runoff from parking lots shall utilize stormwater management infiltration facilities and/or stormwater management filtering systems. These shall be placed within or near the parking lot islands.

(f) *Regional stormwater management facilities.*

(1) Land development projects shall implement regional stormwater management facilities identified in adopted stormwater management plans in accordance with requirements in the stormwater management design manuals and regulations adopted by the board of supervisors.

(2) When a land development project desires to install a regional stormwater management facility at a location not identified in an adopted stormwater management plan, the program administrator shall require submission of a comprehensive watershed study. The watershed study shall include sufficient information to evaluate impacts of the proposed facility on runoff rates, volumes and velocities, and environmental characteristics of the affected areas.

(3) Land development projects served by an existing or planned regional stormwater

management facility shall pay a pro-rata share of the cost of implementing the facility in accordance with regulations adopted by the board of supervisors.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03; Ord. No. 004-32, 6-15-04)

Sec. 21.5-3. Stormwater drainage technical criteria.

(a) All land development projects shall provide for a system of adequate stormwater drainage. The system shall be based on sound engineering practices and shall be certified as adequate to provide for the necessary stormwater drainage by a professional licensed in Virginia to perform such work.

(b) Stormwater drainage systems shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the stormwater management design manuals. Design details for stormwater drainage systems shall be identified on the stormwater management design plan.

(c) Stormwater drainage systems shall be designed such that properties over which surface waters are conveyed, from the development site to discharge point(s), are not adversely affected. The increase in runoff volume caused by the development shall not aggravate an existing drainage problem or cause a drainage problem. A downstream drainage system may be created, expanded or improved in combination with or in lieu of on-site stormwater detention if approved by the program administrator.

(d) Stormwater drainage systems and stormwater management facilities shall be designed to honor natural drainage divides to the maximum extent practicable.

(e) Concentrated surface waters, including outflows from stormwater management facilities, shall not be discharged onto an adjoining developed property (such as any developed nonresidential property, a residential lot less than three (3) acres or the improved portion of a residential lot three (3) acres or greater), unless a storm drainage easement has been recorded on the affected property or unless the discharge is into a well defined natural stream (i.e., incised channel with bed and banks) or an existing drainage system of adequate capacity. Such drainage easement(s) shall be obtained prior to approval of the stormwater management design plan and shall extend to the nearest recorded storm drainage easement, well-defined natural stream, or manmade stormwater facility, channel or pipe of adequate capacity.

(f) Stormwater drainage easements shall be extended where necessary to upstream property lines to permit future development reasonable access to on-site drainageways or drainage systems for connections.

(g) Surface runoff greater than three (3) cubic feet per second for the ten-year storm event that flows through lots shall be piped when average lot size is less than thirty thousand (30,000) square feet except that the program administrator may approve an open-channel system where the preservation of a natural drainageway is desirable or the use of an open channel will not interfere with the use of the property. This requirement shall not apply to low-impact development sites designed in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of section 21.5-2.

(h) Residential lots in which lot size is less than thirty thousand (30,000) square feet shall be graded in such a manner that surface runoff does not cross more than three (3) lots before it is collected in a storm sewer system or designed stormwater conveyance channel.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Sec. 21.5-4. Stormwater management plans.

(a) *Stormwater management concept plans.*

- (1) All preliminary plans of subdivision and major site development plans shall provide a stormwater management concept plan describing, in general, how stormwater runoff through and from the development will be conveyed and controlled.
 - (2) The stormwater management concept plan must be approved prior to submission of a stormwater management design plan (as part of the construction or final site plan) for the entire development, or portions thereof.
 - (3) A copy of the approved stormwater management concept plan shall be submitted with the stormwater management design plan. The program administrator shall check the design plan for consistency with the concept plan and may require a revised stormwater management concept plan if changes in the site development proposal have been made.
 - (4) The stormwater management concept plan shall provide all appropriate information as identified in the stormwater management design manuals.
 - (5) The stormwater management concept plan shall include a hydrologic/hydraulic analysis of the downstream watercourse for all concentrated surface waters that will be discharged onto a developed property. The program administrator may request relocation of a stormwater outfall if other alternative discharge locations are practical.
 - (6) Prior to approval of the stormwater management concept plan, the program administrator, or his designee, shall meet on site with the applicant or his representative to field-verify the hydraulic conditions of all receiving channels.
 - (7) The stormwater management concept plan shall utilize to the maximum extent practicable low-impact development site planning in accordance with the low-impact development design manuals.
- (b) *Stormwater management design plans.*
- (1) Except as provided for in subsection 21.5-1(f)(2), no grading or building permit shall be issued for land development without approval of a stormwater management design plan unless the applicant can demonstrate compliance with section 21.5-2.
 - (2) The applicant shall demonstrate that the project meets the criteria set forth in this chapter through submission of a stormwater management design plan. Failure of the applicant to demonstrate that the project meets these criteria, as determined by the program administrator, shall be reason to deny approval of the plan.
 - (3) A stormwater management design plan containing all appropriate information as specified in this chapter shall be submitted to the department of planning and community development in conjunction with the construction plan or final site plan.
- (c) *Stormwater management design plan contents.* The stormwater management design plan shall contain maps, charts, graphs, tables, photographs, narrative descriptions, explanations, and citations to supporting references as appropriate to communicate the information required by this chapter and the stormwater management design manuals and the low-impact development design manuals. At a minimum, the stormwater management design plan shall contain the following:
- (1) *General.*
 - a. Description of the project, and proposed design, including how water quality, quantity and stormwater drainage requirements will be addressed.
 - b. Proposed erosion and sediment controls, and proposed temporary and permanent stormwater management facilities.
 - c. Project schedule, including a sequence of construction.

d. Maps depicting all pertinent stormwater management information necessary for review of the plan as identified in the stormwater management design manuals, including, but not limited to maps of the drainage area, soils and plan view of the development project.

(2) *Stormwater management facilities.*

a. Stormwater management facilities identified on a map, including details, plan, profile, cross sections, and other pertinent data necessary for review as identified in the stormwater management design manuals.

b. Comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic design calculations, including all assumptions and criteria, for the pre-development and post-development conditions for the design storms specified in this chapter or the stormwater management design manuals.

c. If infiltration facilities are proposed, the location of existing and proposed wells and septic system drain fields shall be shown along with an analysis that supports the location of the infiltration facility in the soil type identified.

d. A geotechnical report with recommendations and earthwork specifications in accordance with requirements in the stormwater management design manuals. The geotechnical engineer shall acknowledge on the design plan that the geotechnical recommendations have been incorporated into the design of stormwater management facilities.

e. A landscaping plan describing the woody and herbaceous vegetative stabilization and management techniques to be used within and adjacent to the stormwater management facility in accordance with standards in the stormwater management design manuals.

f. Identification of all easements needed for inspection and maintenance of stormwater management facilities in accordance with specifications in the stormwater management design manuals.

g. A maintenance plan identifying the parts or components of the stormwater management facility that need to be maintained to ensure continued proper functioning of the facility. If the designated maintenance responsibility is with a party other than Stafford County, then a maintenance agreement shall be executed between the responsible party and Stafford County.

(3) *Low-impact development sites.*

a. Integrated management practices identified on a map and corresponding design details in accordance with the low-impact development design manuals.

b. Hydrologic computations to determine low-impact development stormwater requirements in accordance with the low-impact development design manuals.

c. Hydrologic evaluation and design details for supplemental conventional stormwater management facilities in the event that integrated management practices alone cannot meet site stormwater management requirements.

d. Identification of all storm drainage easements needed to establish locations of integrated management practices.

(4) *Stormwater drainage systems.*

a. Hydrologic and hydraulic design calculations, including calculations for overlot drainage systems.

b. Design specifications in accordance with the stormwater management design

manuals.

c. Identification of all easements needed for inspection and maintenance of drainage systems in accordance with specifications in the stormwater management design manuals.

d. All existing and proposed drainage systems, natural or manmade, shall be analyzed for the one-hundred-year storm impact as required in subsection 11-12 (b)(3) a., b. and c.

(d) *Stormwater management design plan approval.*

(1) A maximum of thirty (30) calendar days from the receipt of an application will be allowed for preliminary review of the application to determine if the application is complete. During this period, the application will be accepted for review, which will begin the sixty-day review period, or rejected for incompleteness. The applicant will be informed in writing of the information necessary to complete the application.

(2) The sixty-day review period begins on the day the complete stormwater management design plan is accepted for review. At this time an acknowledgment letter will be sent to the applicant. During the sixty-day review period, the program administrator shall either approve or disapprove the plan and communicate the decision to the applicant in writing. Approval or denial shall be based on the plan's compliance with this chapter and the stormwater management design manuals. In cases where modifications are required to approve the plan, the county shall have an additional sixty (60) days to review the revised plan from the initial and any subsequent resubmission dates. If the plan is approved, one copy bearing certification of such approval shall be returned to the applicant. If the plan is disapproved, the applicant shall be notified in writing of the reasons.

(3) All plans, profiles, and specifications shall be distributed to the appropriate county departments and/or state agencies for review and recommendation. Comments and recommendations shall be coordinated at the meeting of the technical review committee. The technical review committee shall review the plan for compliance with this chapter.

(4) The applicant or any aggrieved party authorized by law may appeal the program administrator's decision of approval or disapproval of a stormwater management design plan application within thirty (30) days after rendering of such decision by the program administrator, to the board of supervisors.

(e) *Conditions of approval.*

(1) The applicant shall comply with all applicable requirements of the approved plan.

(2) No substantive changes shall be made to an approved plan without review and written approval by the program administrator.

(3) No transfer, assignment, or sale of the rights granted by virtue of an approved plan shall be made unless a written notice of transfer is filed with the program administrator and the transferee certifies agreement to comply with all obligations and conditions of the approved plan.

(4) The stormwater management design plan's approval expires in one year from the date of approval unless a final plat is recorded or unless work has actually begun on the site. The recordation of a final plat for a section of a subdivision (or initiation of construction in a section) does not vest the approval of the stormwater management design plan for the remainder of the subdivision. If the stormwater management design plan expires, the applicant shall file with the program administrator for reapproval of the stormwater management design plan.

(5) Three (3) sets of certified as-built plans, meeting the specifications documented in

the stormwater management design manuals, shall be submitted to the program administrator upon completion of the project. Each as-built plan shall have a certification statement by a professional licensed in Virginia to perform such work.

(6) The applicant shall be responsible for implementing the approved plan, and may be required to conduct a monitoring program, if deemed necessary by the program administrator.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03; Ord. No. 004-32, 6-15-04)

Sec. 21.5-5. Inspection and maintenance.

(a) *Inspections.*

(1) A preconstruction conference between the county, the applicant, and the person(s) performing the work shall be required.

(2) On-site inspections will be conducted by the county and the applicant in accordance with the stormwater management design manuals. Essential elements of such inspection shall include:

a. Inspection immediately following preliminary site preparation, including stripping of vegetation, stockpiling of soil, and construction of temporary stormwater management facilities.

b. Inspections during construction of the permanent stormwater management facilities.

c. Final inspection of the project to ensure that stormwater management facilities have been constructed in accordance with the approved stormwater management design plan and the stormwater management design manuals.

(3) All inspections pursuant to this section shall be documented by a written report or log containing dates and times of inspections and comments concerning verbal communications relating to the project.

(4) If, at any stage of the development, the county determines that the soil or other physical conditions on the site are not as stated or shown on the approved stormwater management plan, or the county determines that the storm drainage system or stormwater management facility is inadequate or not constructed as shown on the approved stormwater management design plan, the county may refuse to approve further work and the county may revoke existing permits or approvals until a revised stormwater management design plan has been submitted and approved.

(5) Final certification of compliance with the construction specifications and integrity of all storm drainage and stormwater management facilities and their appurtenant structures shall be provided on the as-built plan by a professional licensed in Virginia to perform such work.

(b) *Maintenance.*

(1) Responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the stormwater management facilities and storm drainage system, unless assumed by Stafford County, shall remain with the property owner or an owner's association. All maintenance activities shall be in accordance with standard maintenance practices for stormwater management facilities and the stormwater management design manuals.

(2) If the designated maintenance responsibility is with a party other than Stafford County, then a maintenance agreement and plan shall be executed between the responsible party and Stafford County. The maintenance agreement shall be recorded

with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Stafford County prior to or in conjunction with recordation of a plat or approval of the site plan.

(3) To ensure proper performance of the stormwater facility, the property owner or owner's association is responsible for inspecting and performing all necessary maintenance and repairs to the stormwater management facility in accordance with the approved maintenance plan and the stormwater management design manuals. The responsible party shall keep written records of inspections and maintenance/repairs and make them available to the county upon request.

(4) The county shall notify the property owner or owner's association in writing when a determination has been made that the stormwater management facility is in disrepair or is not functioning as intended. The notice shall specify the measures needed to comply with the plan and shall specify the time within which such measures shall be completed. If the responsible party fails to perform such maintenance and repair, the county shall have the authority to perform the work and recover the costs from the responsible party.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Sec. 21.5-6. Performance guarantee.

(a) No permits shall be issued unless the applicant furnishes a performance guarantee, in accordance with the current county security policy. This is to ensure that action can be taken by the county, at the applicant's expense, should the applicant fail, after proper notice and within the time specified, to initiate or maintain those measures identified in the approved stormwater management design plan. If the county takes such action upon such failure by the applicant, the county shall collect from the applicant the difference should the amount of reasonable cost of such action exceed the amount of the security held.

(b) A certified estimate of costs by the design engineer or land surveyor shall be used to verify costs for the purpose of determining the amount of the performance guarantee required by this section.

(c) The performance guarantee furnished pursuant to this section, or the unexpended or unobligated portion thereof, shall be returned to the applicant within sixty (60) days of the final acceptance of completion of the stormwater management facility by the program administrator. Final acceptance shall be defined as the time at which all clearing and grading on the land development site for roads, lots, and other ancillary activities such as recreational or institutional uses, as defined by the preliminary subdivision, construction, or site plan, on land which drains to the stormwater management facility has been completed and stabilized, and construction certification and as-built plans have been received.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Sec. 21.5-7. Exceptions.

(a) Exceptions to the provisions of this chapter may be granted by the program administrator, upon receipt of request for such exception in writing from the applicant or property owner. The request shall include descriptions, drawings, calculations and other information that is necessary to evaluate the waiver of stormwater management requirements.

(b) An exception may be granted provided that: (i) exceptions to the criteria are the minimum necessary to afford relief, (ii) economic hardship is not sufficient reason to grant an exception, (iii) reasonable and appropriate conditions shall be imposed as necessary upon an exception granted so the intent of the chapter is preserved.

(c) The minimum requirements for stormwater management may be waived in whole or part provided at least one of the following conditions applies:

- (1) It can be demonstrated that the proposed development is not likely to impair attainment of the objectives of this chapter.
- (2) The program administrator finds that meeting the minimum on-site requirements is not feasible due to the natural or existing physical characteristics of the site.
- (3) The location of the land development project in the watershed is such that on-site stormwater management will result in increased flows on the main stream. The applicant or property owner must provide supporting hydrologic analysis in accordance with the stormwater management design manuals.
- (4) The proposed land development project will not generate more than a ten-percent increase in the two-year and ten-year predevelopment peak discharge rates and the off-site receiving channel is adequate.
- (5) An existing off-site stormwater management facility provides the required controls.
- (6) An existing regional stormwater management facility provides the required controls, and the property owner agrees to a pro-rata share contribution in accordance with section 21.5-2.
- (7) A regional stormwater management facility has been identified for construction in the Stafford County Land Use Plan. The regional stormwater management facility will provide the required controls for the land development project, the property owner agrees to construct all necessary interim stormwater management controls deemed necessary by the program administrator, and the property owner agrees to a pro-rata share contribution in accordance with section 21.5-2.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Sec. 21.5-8. Fees.

Fees shall be paid to the county in accordance with the Stafford County Fee Schedule to defray the cost of plan review, permit administration, and necessary inspections.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Sec. 21.5-9. Penalties; enforcement.

- (a) If the program administrator determines that there is a failure to comply with the approved plan, notice of such failure shall be served upon the applicant or person responsible for implementing the plan by registered or certified mail or by delivery to the land development site. The notice shall specify the measures needed to comply with the plan and shall specify the time within which such measures shall be completed.
- (b) Upon failure to comply within the time specified, the permit or approval may be revoked and the applicant or person responsible for implementing the plan shall be deemed to be in violation of this chapter.
- (c) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine or imprisonment for each violation, or both, as provided for in § 10.1-603.14, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.
- (d) The program administrator may apply to the circuit court to enjoin a violation or a threatened violation of this chapter as provided for in § 10.1-603.14, Code of Virginia (1950), as

amended, without the necessity of showing that an adequate remedy of law does not exist.

(e) Without limiting the remedies which may be obtained in this section, the program administrator may bring a civil action against any person or violation of this chapter, or any condition of the permit or approval. The action may seek to impose a civil penalty of not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for each violation as provided for in § 10.1-603.14 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended.

(f) With the consent of the person who has violated or failed, neglected, or refused to obey this chapter or any condition of the permit or approval, the program administrator may issue an order against or to such person for the payment of civil charges for violations in specific sums, not to exceed the limit specified in subsection (e) of this section as provided for in § 10.1-603.14, Code of Virginia 1950, as amended. Such civil charges shall be instead of any appropriate civil penalty, which could be imposed under subsection (e) of this section.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Sec. 21.5-10. Effective date.

This chapter shall be effective for all new development applications submitted after the effective date of this chapter.

(Ord. 003-12, 3-18-03)

Secs. 21.5-11--21.5-15. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. STORMWATER POLLUTION AND ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Sec. 21.5-16. Title.

This article shall be known as the Stafford County Stormwater Pollution and Illicit Discharge Ordinance.

(Ord. No. 005-61, 12-13-05)

Sec. 21.5-17. Findings.

(a) Stafford County is subject to the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) phase II permit program for stormwater discharges from a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).

(b) The NPDES regulations for stormwater discharges require certain municipalities including Stafford County to effectively prohibit through ordinance nonstormwater discharges into the storm drain system and to develop a plan to detect and address nonstormwater discharges, including illegal dumping, to the system.

(Ord. No. 005-61, 12-13-05)

Sec. 21.5-18. Definitions.

Director : The county administrator or his designee or his/her designee.

Discharge : Dispose, deposit, pour, inject, dump, leak or place by any means, or that which is disposed, deposited, spilled, poured, injected, dumped, leaked, or placed by any means.

Illicit discharge : Any discharge to the stormwater system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except discharges pursuant to a VPDES permit or discharges resulting from fire fighting activities. This definition shall not include the discharges listed in subsection 21.5-19(b) unless such discharges are identified by the county as sources of pollutants to waters of the United States.

Industrial wastes : Liquid or other wastes resulting from any process of industry, manufacture, trade, or business, or from the development of any natural resources.

NPDES : Means National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (also known as municipal separate storm sewer system or MS4).

Other wastes : Decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, leaves, lawn clippings, lime, garbage, refuse, ashes, offal, oil, tar, paint, solvents, petroleum products, antifreeze, chemicals and all other substances, except industrial wastes and sewage, which may cause pollution.

Person : Any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, association, organization, or other entity, including governmental entities, or any combination thereof.

Pollution : Such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of any state waters as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters:

(a) Harmful or detrimental or injurious to the public health, safety or welfare, or to the health of animals, fish or aquatic life;

(b) Unsuitable with reasonable treatment for use as present or possible future sources

of public water supply; or

(c) Unsuitable for recreational, commercial, industrial, agricultural, or other reasonable uses, provided that:

- (i) An alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological property of state waters, or a discharge or deposit of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes to state waters by any owner which by itself is not sufficient to cause pollution, but which, in combination with such alteration of or discharge or deposit to state waters by other owners, is sufficient to cause pollution;
- (ii) The discharge of untreated sewage by any owner into state waters; and
- (iii) Contributing to the contravention of standards of water quality duly established by the state water control board.

Sanitary sewer : A system of underground conduits that collect and deliver sanitary wastewater to a wastewater treatment plant.

Sanitary wastewater : Wastewater from toilets, sinks, and other plumbing fixtures.

Sewage : The water-carried human wastes from residences buildings, industrial establishments, or other places, together with such industrial wastes, stormwater or other water as may be present.

Stormwater system : All natural watercourses, man-made facilities, and structures used for collecting and conveying stormwater to, through, and from drainage areas to the points of final outlet including, but not limited to, the following: streets, roads, curbs and gutters, inlets, conduits, canals, creeks, channels, catch basins, ditches, drains, sewers, streams, gulches, gullies, flumes, culverts, retention or detention basins, dams, pumping stations, and wetlands.

VPDES : Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System (also known as the Virginia Stormwater Management Permit), in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act.

Waters of the United States : All waters, whether on the surface or underground, the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce, including, but not limited to, intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent and ephemeral streams), mudflats, sand flats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes and natural ponds, except that waste treatment systems, treatment ponds and lagoons designed to meet the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act shall not be waters of the United States.

(Ord. No. 005-61, 12-13-05)

Sec. 21.5-19. Prohibitions.

(a) It shall be unlawful to:

- (1) Cause or allow illicit discharges into the county's stormwater system;
- (2) Discharge materials other than stormwater into the stormwater system by spills, dumping, or disposal without a VPDES permit;
- (3) Cause or allow industrial discharges into the stormwater system without a VPDES permit; or
- (4) Violate any condition or provision of this article or any permit granted for stormwater discharges.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) below, the following activities shall not be unlawful discharges:

- (1) Discharges pursuant to a VPDES or NPDES permit;

- (2) Discharges resulting from firefighting activities;
- (3) Water line flushing;
- (4) Landscape irrigation;
- (5) Diverted stream flows or rising groundwater;
- (6) Infiltration of uncontaminated groundwater;
- (7) Pumping of uncontaminated groundwater;
- (8) Discharges from potable water sources, foundation drains, irrigation water, springs, water from crawl spaces or footing drains;
- (9) Air conditioning condensation;
- (10) Lawn watering;
- (11) Residential car washing;
- (12) Public street washing;
- (13) Swimming pool discharges.

(c) In the event that any of the activities listed in subsection (b) above are found to cause sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes to be discharged into the system, the director shall so notify the person performing such activities, and shall order that such activities be stopped or conducted in a manner to avoid the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes into a storm sewer system. The failure to comply with any such order shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this article.

(Ord. No. 005-61, 12-13-05)

Sec. 21.5-20. Inspections and monitoring.

The director shall have authority to make such lawful inspections and conduct such monitoring of stormwater outfalls or other components of the storm sewer system as may be necessary or appropriate in the administration and enforcement of this article. The director shall also have authority to initiate enforcement actions in accordance under section 21.5-21.

(Ord. No. 005-61, 12-13-05)

Sec. 21.5-21. Notice to correct violation.

If any activity listed in section 21.5-19 is found by the director to be a source of pollutants to waters of the United States, the director shall serve a written notice on the party responsible for the activity which orders that the activity be ceased or conducted in a manner that will avoid the discharge of pollutants to the stormwater system. The notice shall state the date by which the activity shall cease or be conducted without pollution. Failure to comply with any such order within the time stated in the notice shall constitute a violation.

For any violations of this article, the owner must comply with the director's orders within the time specified in the notice. Failure to comply with such order shall constitute a violation of this article. In addition to any penalty imposed for each violation, a judge hearing the case may direct the person responsible to remediate or correct violation, and each day's default in such remediation or correction shall constitute a violation of and a separate offense under this section.

(Ord. No. 005-61, 12-13-05)

Sec. 21.5-22. Penalties for violations.

(a) Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor. Each day that such violation is committed, and each day that such violation is permitted to remain uncorrected shall constitute a separate offense.

(b) Any person who otherwise violates any provision of this article shall be subject to civil penalty between two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day that the violation continues. The court assessing such civil penalty may order the penalty to be paid into the treasury of the county and designated for the purpose of minimizing, preventing, managing or mitigating pollution of the waters of the United States.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be responsible for testing, containing, cleaning up, abating, removing and disposing of any substance unlawfully discharged into the stormwater system or into waters of the county, or, if the director determines that correction of the violation can best be accomplished by the county, shall be liable to the county for all costs of testing, containment, cleanup, abatement, removal and disposal of any substance unlawfully discharged into the storm sewer system or into waters of the United States.

(Ord. No. 005-61, 12-13-05)