



Chapter 6 TECHNICAL GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

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6.1. Adequate Stormwater Management Systems

Adequate stormwater management systems shall be designed to accomplish the following:

1. Account for both offsite and onsite stormwater.
2. Maintain natural topographic and watershed divides.
3. Convey stormwater to a stream, natural channel, or other existing facility in a manner that does not cause flooding or erosion.
4. Discharge stormwater into the natural channel by connecting the channel at natural elevations, or by discharging the stormwater into an existing facility of sufficient capacity to receive it, or by discharging into an approved drainage well.
5. Treat stormwater quality consistently on new development and significant redevelopment sites to the water quality requirements in Chapter 7.

Determination of the size and capacity of an adequate stormwater management system shall take into account the future development in the watershed or affected portions thereof. The design must not adversely affect adjacent or neighboring properties. Any alterations or additions to the Metro stormwater management system require the approval of MWS.

It is the responsibility of the developer or property owner to pick up or acceptably handle the quantity of runoff as it flows onto his or her property from the watershed above, and conduct it through the property to an adequate outfall at the lower property line or beyond. The outfall must be sufficient to receive the runoff without causing deterioration of the downstream channel and the conveyance across the property must be located in a public utility and drainage easement.



The stormwater management system for new developments and significant redevelopment shall be designed to meet stormwater quality for runoff from the development site only and shall be designed to convey stormwater from other properties draining onto the development. If a downstream regional stormwater quality facility serves the runoff from the site then the developer may, with approval MWS, limit the extent to which runoff quality is controlled. If it is infeasible to implement an on-site stormwater quality Stormwater Control Measures (SCM) then the developer may, with approval from MWS, design a system that controls quality for an equivalent portion of runoff entering from the watershed above.

6.1.1. Minor Systems

The design of the minor stormwater management system shall be based on a storm frequency of 10 years. This criterion shall be applied to both closed conduit and open channel systems. However, if the 10-year design flow for an open channel system is greater than 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), then the open or closed system shall be capable of passing the 100-year design flow within the drainage easement. Systems relying on sinkholes or drainage wells for discharge shall be capable of passing the 100-year design flow within the drainage easement, assuming plugged conditions (0 cfs drawdown) for the sinkhole.

In residential subdivision developments where the average lot size is less than 20,000 square feet, the following general guidelines shall be observed in the design of the minor system:

1. Design surface runoff across lots shall not have erosive velocities (see Volume 2).
2. Quantities of surface runoff greater than four (4) cfs that flow through lots shall be collected and conveyed in a system of open channels, closed conduits, or a combination of both.
3. Lots should generally be graded in such a manner that surface runoff does not cross more than three (3) lots before it is collected in a system of open channels, closed conduits, or a combination of both. However, runoff will be permitted to cross more than three (3) lots before it is collected if the system is designed to achieve stormwater quality benefits and does not pose a risk of erosion or other damage to public or private property. This may only be performed with approval from MWS.

Design flows may be determined by the methods identified in Volume 2 of this manual.

6.1.2. Major Systems

Wherever possible, natural waterways serving the major system should remain undisturbed, with proposed development situated wisely and accordingly. Detention may be required to avoid discharges that exceed the capacity of natural waterways. Channelization and other related modifications to the natural waterways are discouraged. Improvements to natural open channels that are to function primarily as the major system shall be designed to pass the 100-year design flow without damage to the channel. Man-made channels designed to function as the major system



(trunk line system) shall be capable of carrying a 100-year design flow. Where man-made channels are necessary, the channels should be located as far away from buildings or structures as possible and preferably in established greenways or other conservation corridors.

Closed systems should be capable of containing the 100-year design flow within the system (ground surface elevation). Designs for closed systems that cannot contain the 100-year flow should coordinate with MWS during the preliminary design phase to determine a method of overland relief in order to safely convey storm flows.

The onsite major stormwater management system for most developments is the natural backup system and consists of the less obvious drainageways. Ideally, this major system should provide relief such that no building will be flooded with a 100-year design flow even if the minor system capacity is exceeded. The 100-year frequency storm shall be used to compute runoff for the design of the onsite major stormwater management system. This system shall be designed to provide relief for flow in excess of the 10-year design flow. The following guidelines pertain to design of the onsite major stormwater management system:

1. Areas should be graded in such a manner or buildings located or constructed in such a manner that if the capacity of the minor system is exceeded, no building will be flooded by the design flow.
2. Critical areas to consider are sumps, relatively flat areas, and areas where buildings are located below streets or parking lots.
3. The 100-year frequency storm for the duration equivalent to the time of concentration shall be used to compute runoff for the major stormwater management system.
4. For the first trial, the same time of concentration values shall be used that were used in designing the minor stormwater management system and the minor system should be assumed to be completely inoperable. If no building will be flooded based on these assumptions, then the analysis can be considered complete.
5. If buildings will be flooded based on the assumptions used in the preceding item, more precise hydrologic and hydraulic computations are required. The minor system, overland relief swales, or surface storage should be designed so that no building will be damaged by flooding.
6. In general, the minor stormwater management system should not be oversized as a basis for providing major system capacity. The major stormwater management system should be in the form of area grading or the location and construction of buildings in such a manner that overland relief swales or surface storage will provide adequate flood protection.

The major stormwater management system should be evident on the drainage plan, including overland relief swales and areas that may be affected by surface storage for a 100-year design storm. Calculations performed for major system design should be submitted with the drainage plan.



6.2. Open Channels

6.2.1. Channel Capacity

Open channel capacity shall be determined by Manning's equation. Appropriate Manning's n values as presented in Volume 2 shall be used for design and are subject to approval from MWS.

6.2.2. Lined Channels

Open channels may be designed as hard-armored, geosynthetic, or soil bioengineering lined channels. Geosynthetic and soil bioengineering techniques are described in Volume 4 – Best Management Practices Manual. Acceptable lining materials must be placed in accordance with applicable subdivision regulations. Approval of lining materials is subject to review by MWS.

Channel lining shall be required when the design velocity exceeds the allowable, non-erosive velocity for a given channel reach and no other erosion control measures provide adequate protection. Allowable, non-erosive velocities for various soil types are presented in Volume 2.

6.2.3. Grassed Channels

The design of grassed channels shall consider the variable degree of retardance generated by different types of cover (see Volume 2).

Temporary erosion control shall be utilized during non-growing seasons and during grass cover establishment. The engineer shall note on the drawings or in the specifications that "All grassed channels must be in a well-stabilized condition and show no sign of erosion at the time of final acceptance by MWS."

6.2.4. Easement Width

All open channels shall be located within the right-of-way of a public utility and drainage easement. Minimum easement width shall be determined from Table 6-1. Public drainage easements for open channels must be properly sized, labeled, and identified on all plats submitted for review. Furthermore, the applicant must illustrate and label the respective tops of banks on any plat submitted for review.

Table 6-1 Minimum Easement Width for Channels.

Top Width of Channel	Easement Width
Less than 5 feet	10 feet centered over channel
5 - 20 feet	5 feet on both sides
Greater than 20 feet	15 feet greater than top width of channel, with minimum of 5 feet on one side



6.3. Storm Pipes and Culverts

6.3.1. Conduit Capacity

Closed conduits shall be designed for the total flow intercepted by the inlets during the design storm event. The minimum diameter for all storm drains shall be 15 inches. All stormwater infrastructure within Right of Ways (or pipes that carry public water) shall be reinforced concrete. Corrugated metal pipe (CMP) systems shall be allowed for private or temporary applications only. All reinforced concrete pipes (RCP) with inverts less than 18 feet shall be Class III.

6.3.2. Easement Width

Minimum allowable easement width for storm water pipes and culverts shall be determined from Table 6-2. Public drainage easements for all storm water infrastructures must be properly sized, labeled and identified on all plats submitted for review. Easement widths presented in Table 6-2 are calculated based on the assumption that maintenance will be performed, if necessary, using the open-cut method with laid back slopes. The easement widths are calculated in accordance with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Technical Manual dated January 20, 1999, Section V, Chapter 2. Easement widths presented are rounded up to the nearest five-foot increment and the use of shoring was not considered.

Table 6-2 Minimum Easement Width for Storm Drains.

Conduit Width (inches)	Invert Depth (feet)	Minimum Total Easement Width (feet) For OSHA Soil Categories ¹		
		A	B	C
15-18 inches	0-5	15	15	20
	5-10	20	25	35
	10-15	30	35	50
	15-20	35	45	65
21-33 inches	0-5	15	15	20
	5-10	20	25	35
	10-15	30	35	50
	15-20	35	45	65
36-48 inches	0-5	15	20	25
	5-10	25	30	40
	10-15	30	40	55
	15-20	40	50	70



Conduit Width (inches)	Invert Depth (feet)	Minimum Total Easement Width (feet) For OSHA Soil Categories ¹		
		A	B	C
54-72 inches	0-5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5-10	25	30	40
	10-15	35	40	55
	15-20	40	50	70

¹OSHA soil categories are defined in the OSHA Technical Manual and in Appendix B of this manual.

Initial easement width requirements must be determined from Table 6-2 assuming an OSHA soil category of “B”. In order to use OSHA soil category “A” for easement width determination, a field investigation to determine the presence of type “A” soils will be required. Following the field investigation, a certification by a licensed professional must be submitted to MWS for review and approval. If at any point during design or construction, it is determined that site conditions warrant the assignment of OSHA soil category “C”, easement width requirements must be determined from Table 6-2 using soil category “C”. In the event that easement width requirements change after plans have been approved by MWS, plans showing the corrected easement width must be submitted to the MWS for review and approval.

6.3.3. Inlets

Inlets shall be designed to convey the 10-year frequency, time of concentration storm event.

6.3.4. Culverts

Culverts are to be designed with upstream and downstream headwalls. The design flow for culverts shall be based on the following return frequencies:

1. 100-year for residential collector and commercial road crossings.
2. 10-year for residential roads and crossings.

In addition, building elevations shall be checked for flooding caused by the 100-year, 24-hour storm.

6.4. Outlet Protection

The design discharge at the outlet of stormwater management systems shall not result in velocities that equal or exceed the erosive velocity of the receiving channel, unless energy dissipation and permanent erosion protection measures are placed at the outlet. Energy dissipation and erosion control devices shall have no overfall at the terminal end and shall discharge onto a stable section. The terminal section shall be considered stable if the terminal section design velocity is less than the erosive velocity.



6.5. Bridges

All bridges shall be designed for the 100-year, 24-hour storm event. The design flow shall consider runoff from the total tributary area and will require stream channel routing, as appropriate.

6.6. Stormwater Quantity Detention

The purpose of stormwater detention is to protect downstream properties from flood increases due to upstream development. The design is required to control peak flow at the outlet of a site such that post-development peak flows are equal to or less than pre-development peak flows for the 2-year, 5-year, 10-year, 25-year, 50-year, and 100-year design storms.

In the event that Metro has developed a master plan for the area, the recommendations within the master plan will establish the requirements for detention. Metro retains the right to require detention in areas of known flooding when detention will not exacerbate downstream flooding. Metro also retains the right to waive detention where detention is proven to exacerbate flooding or will have no proven impact on flooding.

The release rate from any detention facility should approximate that of the site prior to the proposed development for the 2-year through 100-year storm events, with emergency overflow capable of handling at least the 100-year discharge except where waived or altered by MWS. Detention systems must be constructed during the first phase of major developments to eliminate damage to adjacent properties during construction. In this regard, the detention systems shall be designed to function as sediment traps and cleaned out to proper volumes before completion. If siltation has occurred, detention systems must be restored to their design dimensions after construction is complete and certified as part of the as-built submittal (see Section 3.9).

6.7. Downstream Infrastructure

Grading Permit (GP) sites that; add stormwater infrastructure, modify existing infrastructure, increase stormwater volume and/or velocities and/or alter the method of discharge from their property (example: from sheet flow to direct point(s) discharge) shall be required to perform an analysis to evaluate the impact of their development upon the existing stormwater system. This analysis shall extend from their site to an existing downstream stormwater feature as determined by MWS' Downstream Infrastructure policy. All stormwater systems shall be able to hydraulically operate in a manner so as to not adversely affect public health and safety.



6.8. Quantity & Quality Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) Maintenance

Care must be taken to ensure that any required detention facilities do not become nuisances or health hazards. Stormwater quality management practices generally require more maintenance than stormwater quantity management practices. Detention facilities should be designed to require minimal maintenance, and maintenance responsibility must be clearly stated on the plans. Detention facilities may be designed to serve multiple purposes whereby runoff may be detained under wet-weather conditions, but also serve as common or recreational areas during dry-weather conditions. Where multi-purpose facilities are provided, or where flat grades or poorly draining soils are encountered, provisions for adequate low flow stormwater management system may be required. Where the retention/ detention facility is planned to be used as a lake, pond or stormwater quality management practice with a permanent pool, water budget calculations shall be performed and submitted to demonstrate that an adequate pool is expected during dry summer months. More detailed specifications on detention structures can be found in Volume 4 Section 6.

All stormwater quantity and/or quality control SCMs must be maintained by the landowner or the homeowner's association in perpetuity. In order to ensure future property owners are aware of the inspection and maintenance responsibilities and do not remove/alter the SCM, at least one permanent sign must be posted at each different type of SCM per parcel. For example, if a site constructs pervious pavement and multiple bioretention cells on the same parcel, at least one pervious pavement and one bioretention sign must be posted within or near one of the representative features prior to final sign-off. For pervious pavement SCMs, the signage should be placed at most logical place in close proximity to the structure. SCM signs are not required for green roof practices or underground structures. Template signs with dimension specifications are provided at: SCM.Nashville.gov.

Personalized signs can be approved by MWS NPDES as long as similar messages and dimensions are maintained.

6.8.1. SCM Maintenance Document

A Maintenance Document must be submitted with the Grading Permit application and must include the following:

1. Either an Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Agreement, which includes an easement requirement, or a Declaration of Restrictions and Covenants, whichever is appropriate as determined by MWS staff¹, signed by the current owner. All SCMs shall be located within a public utility and drainage easement if the SCM receives public water or if required by MWS staff. Copies of the two alternative forms may be found in Appendix F.

¹ In making this determination, staff will take the following into consideration. The Declaration of Restrictions and Covenants may be permissible in lieu of an Inspection and Maintenance Agreement /Easement where the potential impact the stormwater system components in question could have on the public stormwater system is minimal or where the signatory to the Maintenance Document is an established institution that can reasonably be expected to continue to hold the property where the stormwater system components are located for the foreseeable future. Examples of such instances would include an urban highrise with a green roof or a similar SCM, or SCMs proposed to be maintained on the property of an established educational institution or hospital.



2. A long-term maintenance plan prepared by the design engineer. The maintenance plan must include a description of the stormwater system and its components, inspection priorities and inspection schedule for each component, and SCM schematics for each SCM.
3. A system location map to enable MWS to locate SCMs, which include water quality buffers, as needed. The map shall not include grading or EPSC but, shall show how the SCMs will be accessed for maintenance. The sheet shall also contain all details for the SCMs including cross sections and landscape plans if applicable.

The Maintenance Document must be recorded prior to final Grading Permit approval. If the final configuration of the stormwater system components or SCM differs from the original configuration proposed with the Grading Permit application, the Maintenance Document must be revised, finalized, and rerecorded. Failure to follow the Maintenance Document could result in enforcement action. Nothing in these regulations alters, amends, or negates requirements under existing detention pond agreements between the Metropolitan Government and property owners.

6.8.2. *Inspection and Maintenance Responsibilities*

The long-term maintenance plan within the Maintenance Document contains the inspection priorities and schedule for the stormwater system components and SCMs. The SCM owner is responsible for inspecting the stormwater system, including SCMs, according to the schedule and annually submitting a completed report summarizing inspections and maintenance performed on all SCMs associated with the grading permit. The report format and submittal process are described at: SCM.Nashville.gov. The Annual Inspection and Maintenance Summary Report for all inspection and maintenance activities performed the previous calendar year should be submitted after January 1st, but no later than July 1st of each year.

6.9. Sinkholes and Drainage Wells

Metro defines sinkholes as follows:

A sinkhole is a depression that occurs naturally in a karst area with no surface outflow of water and shall be identified by the first closed contour on 2-foot contour interval map or as designated by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

If a party disagrees with a sinkhole as determined by a contour map or as identified by MWS, the party may appeal to TDEC for review. If TDEC determines the feature not to be a sinkhole, Metro will defer to TDEC's determination.

All stormwater management systems discharging to sinkholes or drainage wells shall be designed and certified by a registered engineer using the 100-year storm and assume plugged conditions (0 cfs outflow). A geologic investigation and report as described in Section 4.2.2.4 is required, along with a demonstration that development will not occur within the area flooded by the 100-year storm. The project must also comply with all state and federal sinkhole permitting requirements. Any lost sinkhole volume from the 100-year storm event will need to be compensated within the development or demonstrate that no adverse conditions will occur.



When existing or new sinkholes are determined to require remediation, the repair should be designed and certified by a registered engineer using (1) reverse-graded backfilling, (2) concrete (grout) plugging, or (3) an engineered subsurface structure. Appropriate techniques are related to the size of the sinkhole and are further described in TDEC's *Tennessee Permanent Stormwater Management and Design Guidance*.

6.10. Water Quality Buffers

6.10.1. Identification of Community Waters and Application of Buffers

New development, significant redevelopment, and/or sites needing a Grading Permit are required to preserve water quality buffers along Metro's community waters. Buffers shall be clearly marked on site development plans, Grading Permit applications, plats, and/or concept plans. Community waters include the following:

1. Intermittent and perennial streams (and their source springs)
2. Lakes and ponds with hydrologic connectivity (stream leading into/out of the pond or obvious spring input)
3. Wetlands that have been identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, TDEC, or MWS staff.

Intermittent streams are natural or man-made watercourses (streams), which may cease to flow for sustained periods during a normal rainfall year (typically during the later summer through fall months). Perennial streams generally flow year-round, however they too may also run dry during years of extreme drought. Both intermittent and perennial streams will be collectively referred to as "streams" throughout this manual.

Channels identified on Metro's GIS layer as streams or as draining 40 acres or more must be buffered unless the developer can clearly demonstrate the watercourse in question is not a community water. Hydrologic determinations can be performed by qualified staff either using MWS' Hydrologic Determination Policy or TDEC's Guidance for Making Hydrologic Determinations. These hydrologic determinations must be submitted to MWS for review prior to acceptance. MWS will also accept determinations performed by TDEC. Please contact MWS for additional information.

Where Metro's Water Quality Buffer requirements differ from TDEC's Construction General Permit (CGP) buffer requirements, the more restrictive requirement shall apply. Furthermore, the Grading Permit plans must address how and when the transition from the CGP buffer requirement to Metro's buffer requirement will transpire on the site.

6.10.2. Buffer Widths

The following buffer widths and zones shall be applied to community waters, as described in Section 6.10.1. **Zone 1** for all buffers shall be considered a "no disturb zone", where the vegetation cannot be disturbed, removed or replanted unless a buffer restoration plan has been approved by



MWS. **Zone 2** can consist of managed vegetation, meaning the buffer zone can be disturbed and planted with grass or other vegetation. However, no structures or impervious surfaces shall be placed in Zone 2. This includes Permanent Treatment Practices (SWMM Vol. 4) and Green Infrastructure Practices (SWMM Vol. 5) that are being used to meet a site’s water quality and/or quantity requirements. In defining the inner limits of stream buffers, top of bank is defined as the uppermost limit of the active channel of a stream during “bank full” conditions, usually marked by a break in slope. The tops of bank must be properly illustrated and labeled on plats submitted for review. Buffers also extend skyward and their vertical extent shall not be encroached upon.

Streams

1. Streams draining < 100 acres: 30’ from top of bank; Zone 1=30’ (See Figure 6-1)
2. Streams draining \geq 100 acres, but < 1 square mile: 50’ from top of bank; Zone 1=30’ and Zone 2=20’ (See Figure 6-2)
3. FEMA studied streams, streams with a Local Flood Study, or streams with a drainage area \geq 1 square mile: 75’ from the floodway, Zone 1=floodway + 50’ and Zone 2=25’ (See Figure 6-3). MWS staff may allow a large undisturbed floodway to count towards the buffer requirement in consultation with Metro Parks and Greenways if the undisturbed area complies with the requirements of the floodplain overlay district and if staff determines that the undisturbed area would adequately serve water quality functions.

Ponds

Ponds with hydrologic connectivity (stream leading into/out of the pond or obvious spring input): 25’ from normal water pool, with Zone 1 = 10’ and Zone 2 = 15’

Wetlands

25’ from the wetland delineation line (accepted by USACOE, TDEC, or MWS), with no disturbance allowed within the 25’.

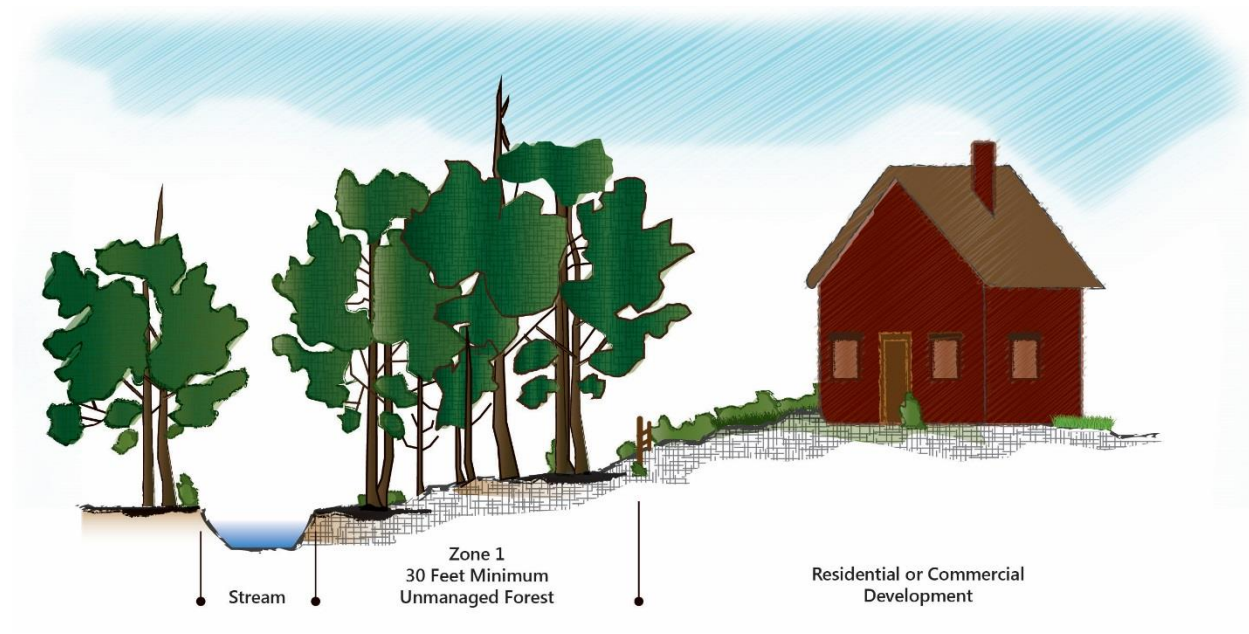


Figure 6-1 Buffer Example for Streams with Drainage Area < 100 acres

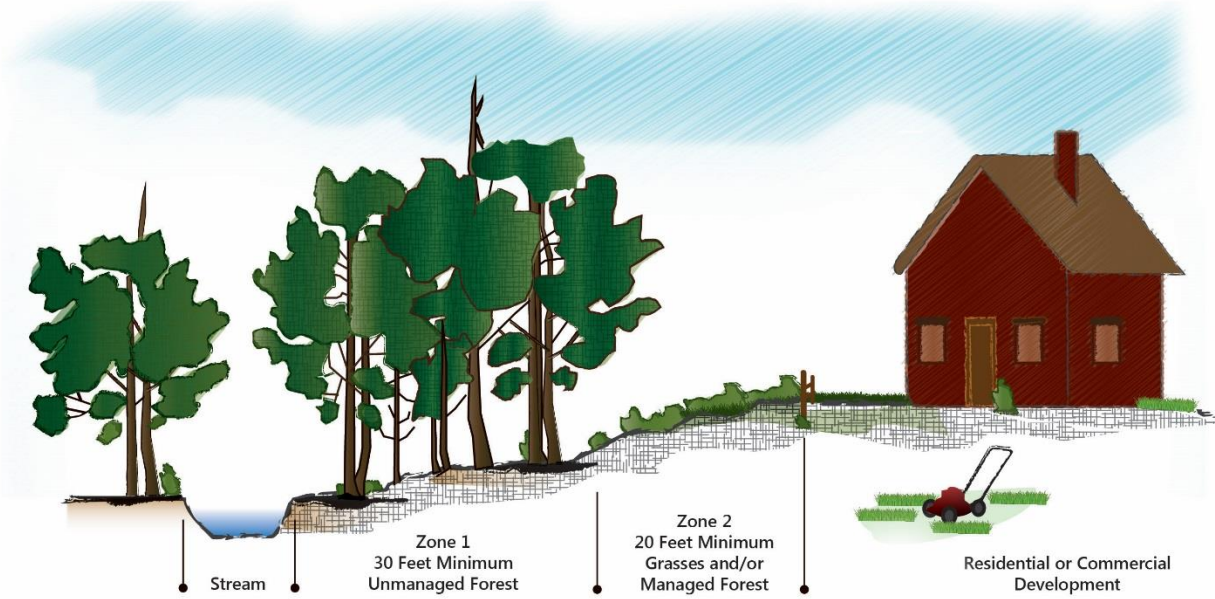


Figure 6-2 Buffer Example for Streams with Drainage Area \geq 100 acres

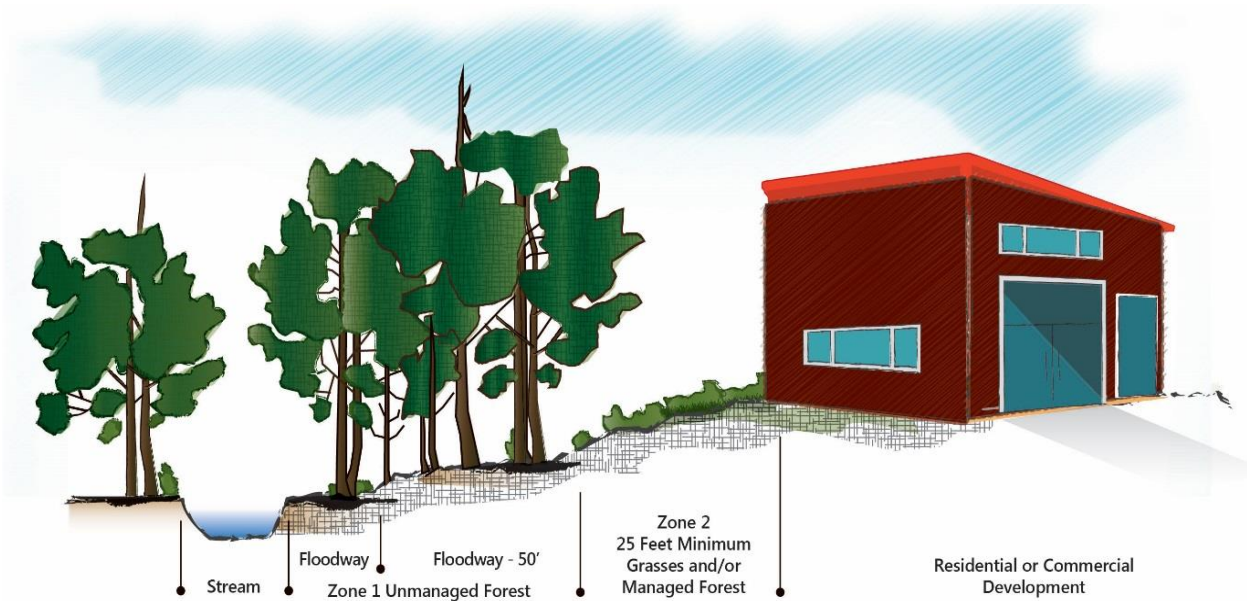


Figure 6-3 Buffer Example for Streams with Floodways



6.10.3. *Preservation of Water Quality Buffers*

Buffers shall be preserved both during development and perpetually after development.

1. During development, Zone 1 of all buffers shall be clearly marked and protected from construction activities. Zone 2 may be disturbed and revegetated.
2. For single-family residential subdivision grading permits, water quality buffers shall be placed in open space / public utility and drainage easements.
3. Prior to the release of the Stormwater Bond or Stormwater Use & Occupancy Permit sign-off, water quality buffer limits shall be clearly marked with permanent signs placed every 100 feet along the outside edge of Zone 1 (the edge furthest from the stream). The number of required buffer signs should be indicated along the buffer line on the Grading and Drainage plans. Please contact MWS for the sign requirements.
4. Projects that disturb buffers for enhancement or restoration shall be allowed with prior approval from MWS.

When the application of the buffer area would result in the extreme loss of buildable area, modifications to the width of the buffer area may be allowed through the Stormwater Management Committee appeals process. An alteration to a community water also requires a variance from the Stormwater Management Committee. Septic systems cannot be located within 25' of a community water. This distance is not appealable to the SWMC. A variance will be required if they are located in Zone 1 outside of the 25' setback. Additional information on the variance process is found in Section 3.6 and Appendix C.

6.10.4. *Maintenance of Water Quality Buffers*

In order to maintain the functional value of the buffer area, indigenous vegetation may be removed as follows:

1. Dead, diseased, or dying trees that are in danger of falling and causing damage to dwellings or other structures may be removed at the discretion of the landowner.
2. Debris in the buffer area that is caused by storm damage may be removed.
3. Invasive plant species may be removed if they are replaced by native species that are equally effective in retarding runoff, preventing erosion, and filtering nonpoint source pollution from runoff. A buffer restoration plan for removal of invasive species must be approved by MWS. See section 6.10.6 for buffer restoration plan requirements.
4. Woody vegetation growing on a levee or within 15 feet of the levee toe may be removed to protect the integrity of the levee.
5. Vegetation may be maintained in certain areas so as not to conflict with other Metro Code relating to “sight distances” for ROW, roadway maintenance, driveways, or other paths of travel.



6.10.5. Uses in the Buffer that are Permissible with Conditions

Some buffer impacts are inevitable with development. In order to minimize variance requests, Metro has identified allowable or permissible disturbances or uses of the buffer that can be approved at the staff level. Table 6-3 outlines permissible buffer impacts and the appropriate conditions for each impact type. Impacts to the buffer that do not meet these conditions are required to request a variance.

The benefits of buffers are maximized in unbroken corridors along streams rather than in interrupted, segmented buffers. Therefore, the buffer program promotes minimizing stream crossings. For buffer crossings proposed in plans, the developer must show that there is not a feasible alternative to the crossing.

6.10.6. Buffer Restoration and Enhancement

Buffer restoration is required when a buffer is disturbed without approval from MWS or the Stormwater Management Committee. A developer or property owner may also wish to enhance a buffer to bring it closer to an optimal, undisturbed native forest condition. Prior to reestablishing or planting the buffer, a restoration or enhancement plan must be submitted to and approved by MWS.

6.10.6.1. Buffer Restoration and Enhancement Plan Requirements

Buffer restoration and/or enhancement plans must include the following:

1. *A drawing or plan* that shows the location of the buffer in relation to the existing or planned development and to the buffered community water; the disturbance limits for the planned buffer restoration; direction of flow of runoff from the site and flow within the community water feature; erosion prevention and sediment control measures to be installed to protect the community water; any existing or proposed stream crossings; existing or proposed streambank stabilization measures; access to a water source for the purposes of watering vegetation; and other pertinent information. The plan(s) must be stamped by a registered landscape architect.
2. *A plan in visual or narrative form that describes the vegetation plan for the buffer.* Zone 1 of buffers must be planted with native trees, shrubs, and grasses that will not be mowed. Please contact MWS for native plant lists. Zone 2 may be planted with fescue or Bermuda grasses, at a minimum, but can also be planted as described for Zone 1.
3. The schedule for when plantings will occur and a two (2) year survival guarantee provided by the responsible party.



Table 6-3 Permissible Buffer Impacts, with Conditions

Permissible Activity within Stream Buffer	Condition for Approval
Trails	Minimize impact to buffer based upon MWS staff approval. Trails shall be no wider than five feet and composed of pervious materials such as mulch.
Water Dependent Structures (boat docks, piers, marinas, launching ramps, etc.)	Minimize disturbance and stabilize disturbed areas. Contain all pollutants related to boating activities such as oil and gas, boat sewage, solvents, antifreeze, detergents, and toxic metals. Paths to access water dependent structures are permitted as long as the disturbance is minimized.
Sidewalks Required in Accordance with the Major & Collector Street Plan	Minimize impact necessary based upon MWS staff assessment in coordination with Planning and Public Works.
Culvert/pipe Extension for Metro Required Road Widening or Sidewalk Construction	Minimal impact to stream and buffer necessary as determined by MWS staff.
Improvements to Encapsulated Streams (replacement or repair of pipes or culverts)	Minimize impact to resource during construction. Infrastructure shall be properly sized. Three sided culverts may be required as determined by MWS staff.
Road and Driveway and Crossings	Only when there are no feasible alternatives and at least 1,000 feet between crossings. A three-sided culvert or span shall be used, and the buffer impact shall be perpendicular ¹ to the stream. Perpendicular disturbances that do not cross the resource are also permitted.
Bank Stabilization or Channel Restoration	Requires necessary approvals from MWS and/or TDEC and a MWS approved buffer restoration plan (See 6.10.6.1)
Underground Utility Lines Associated with New Development	Zone 1: Only when there are no other feasible alternatives; preferred crossing is perpendicular ¹ Zone 2: Permissible
Drainage System Outfalls	MWS staff can use engineering judgement to route drainage outfalls to minimize adverse effects to the stream. This can include buffer encroachment as required provided that an approved buffer restoration and mitigation plan is included.
Mowing and Maintenance for Single Family Residential Infill	Under certain conditions ² , continuous mowing and maintenance of less than 50% of the Zone 1 buffer may be approved at staff level. A mitigation plan, approved by staff, is required to authorize buffer disturbance. Buffer signage will still be required.

¹Crossings that are within 15 degrees of being perpendicular to the stream can be approved by staff without a variance. Proposed crossings that vary more than 15 degrees from perpendicularity must go through the Stormwater Management Committee.

²This policy is for single family residential infill developments in existing neighborhoods. It only applies if the buffer was previously maintained and there is a maintained buffer on an adjacent parcel.

Note: Wetland and Pond Buffer disturbances are only permissible for the above activities when there are no feasible alternatives. A disturbance to a wetland or a pond requires Stormwater Management Committee approval. If the wetland is low to moderate quality and less than 0.1 acres, staff may approve a disturbance to the wetland.



6.11. Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Measures

By policy, Metro’s requirements for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (EPSC) measures are consistent with those of TDEC’s CGP. Some of the more crucial design requirements are outlined in this section. Wherever the Metro and CGP requirements are in conflict, the more restrictive requirements should be applied.

EPSC measures shall be designed according to the size, slope, and soil type of disturbed or drainage areas to prevent erosion and to capture sediment. In addition, for sites discharging to Waters with Unavailable Parameters for siltation or habitat alteration (as indicated on the most recent 303(d) list maintained by TDEC Division of Water Resources) or TDEC designated Exceptional Tennessee Waters, EPSC measures shall be designed for the 5-year, 24-hour storm event, at a minimum. EPSC measures for sites that do **not** discharge into Waters with Unavailable Parameters for siltation or habitat alteration (as indicated on the most recent 303(d) list maintained by TDEC) or Exceptional Tennessee Waters must be designed for the 2-year, 24-hour storm event. The approximate values for the corresponding storm events for Nashville are 3.39 inches for the 2-year, 24-hour storm event and 4.5 inches for the 5-year, 24-hour storm event.

An EPSC plan shall identify the erosion prevention and sediment control measures that are appropriate for the actual site conditions. These plans should be drawn upon existing site contours without the final grading lines. In addition, the appropriate schedule of implementation shall be identified. Particular attention is required for concentrated stormwater flows. Either concentrated stormwater flows shall be avoided, or the conveyance system shall be protected sufficiently to prevent significant erosion. Sediment control measures are required at all points where sediment has the potential to leave the site. The plan shall identify provisions including but not limited to the following:

- Erosion prevention on denuded areas;
- Non-structural management practices to be implemented;
- Perimeter controls;
- Permanent stormwater conveyance structures;
- Temporary and final stabilization methods and schedule;
- Provision for removing temporary control measures;
- Stabilization of the site where temporary measures are removed;
- Maintenance requirements for temporary management practices including minimum inspection requirements; and/or
- Maintenance requirements for any permanent measures.

Additional guidance for selecting, designing and implementing appropriate erosion prevention and sediment control practices is presented in Volumes 2 and 4.

6.11.1. Disturbed Areas



Disturbed area shall be limited to 50 acres. For projects in which over 50 acres of soil will be disturbed, construction must be phased. Temporary or permanent stabilization must be completed no later than 15 days after construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased. Steep slopes shall be stabilized not later than seven (7) days after construction activity on the slope has temporarily or permanently ceased. Exceptions to this requirement include:

1. Where the initiation of stabilization measures by the seventh day is precluded by snow cover or frozen ground conditions, stabilization measures shall be initiated as soon as practicable; and
2. Where construction activity on a portion of the site is temporarily ceased, and earth-disturbing activities will be resumed within 15 days, temporary stabilization measures do not have to be installed on that portion of the site.

Soil stabilization refers to measures that protect soil from the erosive forces of raindrop impact and flowing water. Applicable practices include but are not limited to vegetative establishment, mulching, geotextiles, and the early application of gravel base on areas to be paved. Selected soil stabilization measures should be appropriate for the time of year, site conditions, and estimated duration of use.

Soil stockpiles shall be stabilized if left undisturbed for 15 or more days. They shall be protected with sediment trapping measures that may include sediment traps or detention ponds to prevent soil loss from the project site throughout the life of the soil stockpiling practice.

6.11.2. Final Stabilization

Final stabilization is achieved when all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed, no further construction activity is planned, and perennial vegetation and/or a permanent non-erodible surface has been established on the entire area of disturbance. Permanent vegetation shall not be considered established until a ground cover is achieved that, in the opinion of MWS, is mature enough to control soil erosion satisfactorily and to survive severe weather conditions. Also, there should be no signs of accelerated erosion on steep slopes. Channels and concentrated flow paths shall be completely stabilized.

6.11.3. Protection of Adjacent Properties

Properties adjacent to the site of a land disturbance shall be protected from sediment deposition. This may be accomplished by preserving a well-vegetated buffer strip around the lower perimeter of the land disturbance; by installing perimeter controls such as sediment barriers, filters, diversion berms, or sediment basins; or by a combination of such measures.



6.11.4. Timing and Stabilization of Sediment Trapping Measures

Sediment basins and traps, perimeter diversion berms, sediment barriers and other measures intended to trap sediment onsite shall be constructed as a first step in grading, and be made functional before upslope land disturbance takes place. All sediment control practices at hydraulic outlets from the site must be installed before additional construction may take place. Earthen structures such as dams, dikes, and diversions shall be seeded and mulched within 15 days of installation.

6.11.5. Sediment Basins and Sediment Traps

Stormwater runoff from drainage areas totaling five (5) acres or greater shall pass through a sediment basin or other suitable sediment control measure until final stabilization of the site. The basin must be designed for the calculated runoff from a 5-year, 24-hour storm if the site discharges to Waters with Unavailable Parameters for siltation or habitat alteration or Exceptional Tennessee waters as determined by TDEC. Otherwise, the basin shall treat the stormwater runoff from a 2-year, 24-hour event. Stormwater runoff from drainage areas totaling 3.5 to 4.9 acres shall pass through a sediment trap designed for the calculated runoff from a 5-year, 24-hour storm if the site discharges to Waters with Unavailable Parameters for siltation or habitat alteration or Exceptional Tennessee waters as determined by TDEC.

The drainage area includes both disturbed and undisturbed portions of the site and areas adjacent to the site, all draining through a common outfall. Runoff from any undisturbed acreage should be diverted around the disturbed area and the sediment basin. Diverted runoff can be omitted from the volume calculation for the sediment basin size. *Metro reserves the right to request/require more stringent controls if the proposed or existing controls are deemed inadequate.*

6.11.6. Cut and Fill Slopes

Cut and fill slopes shall be designed and constructed in a manner that will minimize erosion. Consideration must be given to the length and steepness of the slope, the soil type, upslope tributary area, groundwater conditions, and other applicable factors. As a minimum, all slopes at 3 to 1 or steeper shall be stabilized with rock riprap, geosynthetic material, or other method approved by MWS.

6.11.7. Construction Exits

A stabilized stone pad shall be placed at any point where traffic will be leaving a construction site to a public right-of-way, street, alley, or parking lot. Stone pads shall contain two (2)- to three (3)-inch stone, be six (6) inches thick, and be a minimum of 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. Detailed requirements for construction exits are presented in the Volume 4 of this manual.



6.11.8. Litter and Construction Waste Materials

Grading Permittees shall control site wastes such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary wastes at their construction site that may cause adverse impacts to water quality. “Control” shall constitute SCMs addressing the aforementioned site issues and should be being depicted on the EPSC sheet of the site’s approved Grading Permit plan as well as being implemented and maintained on the project site as required to prevent pollution from being lost from the site.

A Grading Permit must be obtained for any parcel of land accepting 100 cubic yards of fill or more. Transporting/disposing of excess or unwanted fill on a site that does not already hold a valid Grading Permit will result in the issuance of a Notice of Violation (NOV), a Stop Work Order (SWO), a penalty, or the revocation of the Grading Permit for the project that is the source of the fill material.

6.11.9. Deficient Performance

If at any time it is determined by MWS, that the erosion prevention and sediment control practices as originally designed are not capable of preventing sediment from leaving the site, then the EPSC plan shall be revised and submitted for approval to MWS and additional controls shall be implemented. If MWS inspectors determine that adequate inspections and maintenance procedures are not being performed or the controls as designed are not meeting performance objectives presented in this chapter, then MWS may issue a SWO, NOV with penalty, rescind a Grading Permit, or take other appropriate legal actions. See Section 3.7 of this Volume for additional information.



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