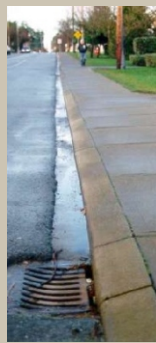


# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



## PURPOSE & HIGHLIGHTS OF ORDINANCE

- Since the inception of the Federal Clean Water Act's Phase II requirements, a new perspective on stormwater management has been guiding communities. The focus has shifted from trying to capture and discharge stormwater off-site as quickly as possible, and instead reduce runoff through on-site infiltration and then treat any runoff before it is discharged into streams or wetlands for improved watershed quality.
- The purpose of the example stormwater ordinance is to encourage the use of structural, vegetative, or managerial practices, referred to as Best Management Practices (BMPs), designed to treat, prevent, or reduce degradation of water quality due to stormwater runoff.
- All development projects subject to review under the ordinance should be designed, constructed, and maintained using BMP's to prevent flooding, protect water quality, reduce soil erosion, maintain and improve wildlife habitat, and contribute to the aesthetic values of the project. The ordinance incorporates stormwater management and impervious surface reduction guidelines into the text, and provides site development standards that guide individuals to finding opportunities for stormwater reduction and treatment as they go through the site planning process.
- A balance between the benefits and potential issues needs to be considered in designing any stormwater system. There are many positive benefits to managing and storing stormwater above ground rather than in underground pipes. However, above ground methods raise some issues to keep in mind, such as the safety of potential standing water on a site, or allowing certain pollutants such as motor fluids or other hazardous substances to infiltrate into the ground.
- It is important to explain through the Master Plan the approach a community wants developers to take in designing stormwater systems. Results such as protection of wetlands, riparian corridors, and hydrologic patterns should be discussed in general terms to clearly communicate the connection between stormwater and the community's vision for its future water quality.



For additional information contact The Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development  
586-469-5285

