

**APPENDIX A**

**SIMPLIFIED APPROACH TO  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
FOR SMALL PROJECTS**



**Appendix A.1**  
**Applicability, Submittal and Approval**  
**Requirements**



## **Applicability:**

- Small projects with less than 2,000 square feet of Proposed Impervious Surfaces (as defined in the Municipality’s Stormwater Management Ordinance) and with less than 10,000 square feet of proposed Earth Disturbance (as defined in the Municipality’s Ordinance) may apply the “Simplified Approach to Stormwater Management for Small Projects” (Simplified Approach).
- Only projects that meet the above size thresholds as specified in the Municipality’s Stormwater Management Ordinance may use this Simplified Approach and are then not required to submit a formal Stormwater Management Site plan to the Municipality. However, these projects are still required to address water quality and infiltration requirements as outlined in this Simplified Approach “Handbook”.
- Any project with more than 2,000 square feet of Proposed Impervious Surface or more than 10,000 square feet of proposed Earth Disturbance can NOT apply this Simplified Approach.
- The Applicant should first review the planned project with the Municipal Engineer prior to initiating the Simplified Approach to confirm the following:
  - That the proposed project is not otherwise exempt from the stormwater management control and the engineered Stormwater Management Site Plan requirements of the Municipality’s Stormwater Management Ordinance;
  - That the proposed project is eligible to use this Simplified Approach;
  - To determine which components of the proposed project must be included in the calculation of “impervious surfaces (areas)”; and,
  - Whether any local conditions are known to the Municipal Engineer that would preclude the use of any of the techniques included in this Simplified Approach.

## **Submittal and Approval Requirements:**

Use of the Simplified Approach requires:

- The applicant to submit the following to the Municipality for review and approval prior to beginning construction:
  - A Simplified Stormwater Management Site Plan (i.e. sketch plan) and accompanying Worksheet; and
  - A completed, signed and notarized “Simplified Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement”.
- The first 1-inch of rainfall runoff from Proposed Impervious Surfaces (as defined by the Municipality’s Ordinance) must be captured and removed on the applicant’s property.
- The applicant to record the “Simplified Approach – Stormwater Best Management Practices Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement” at the Chester County Office of the Recorder of Deeds after signature by the Municipality.
- A final inspection conducted by the Municipality after completion of construction.



**Appendix A.2 –**

***“Simplified Approach to Stormwater Management  
for Small Projects – Handbook”***





# **Simplified Approach to Stormwater Management for Small Projects**

## **Handbook**

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For:  
New London Township  
As part of the County-wide Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for Chester County, PA

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*All revisions made by Ragan Engineering Associates, Inc. were completed without consultation with Borton-Lawson and were completed at the sole discretion of Ragan Engineering Associates, Inc. and New London Township*



# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR MEETING THE SIMPLIFIED APPROACH REQUIREMENTS

## Introduction

This Handbook has been developed to allow homeowners or applicants for small projects to comply with stormwater management requirements of the Stormwater Management Ordinance of the Municipality, including sizing, designing, locating and installing on-lot measures, referred to herein as “Best Management Practices” (BMPs). Only projects that meet the size thresholds specified in the Municipality’s Stormwater Management Ordinance may use this Simplified Approach and are then not required to submit a formal Stormwater Management Site plan to the Municipality. However, these projects are still required to address certain requirements, such as stormwater quality, infiltration, rate and volume management goals as outlined in this Simplified Approach Handbook.

Pennsylvania Act 167 (PA Stormwater Management Act) was authorized on October 4, 1978 (32 P.S., P.L. 864) and gave Pennsylvania Municipalities the power to regulate activities that affect flooding, streambank erosion, stormwater runoff and surface and groundwater quantity and quality. The Municipality’s Stormwater Management Ordinance was prepared to comply with the PA Act 167 requirements and includes provisions allowing this Simplified Approach to be used for small projects as specified in their Ordinance.

If the guidelines presented in this Handbook are followed, the applicant may not require professional engineering services to comply with these stormwater management goals. This Handbook is organized into five sections:

- **Section 1** describes requirements and a simplified approach for designing a suitable BMP, and a description of what needs to be included on the simplified stormwater management (SWM) site plan (i.e. sketch plan).
- **Section 2** presents definitions of key terms.
- **Section 3** presents options of BMPs that can be considered for on-lot stormwater management.
- **Section 4** illustrates an example of how to obtain the size and dimensions of a BMP(s) for a sample project.
- **Section 5** describes the requirements to be met for a “Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement”.

The Simplified Approach requires:

- The applicant to submit the following to the Municipality for review and approval prior to beginning construction:
  - A Simplified Stormwater Management (SWM) Site Plan (i.e. sketch plan), and accompanying Worksheet, and
  - A completed and signed “Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement”.

- The first 1-inch of rainfall runoff from the proposed impervious surface (as defined by the Township's Ordinance) must be captured and removed from the stormwater runoff leaving the applicant's property.
- The applicant to record the "Stormwater Management Practices (BMPs) and Conveyances Operation and Maintenance Agreement" at the County's Recorder of Deeds after signature by the Township.

The purpose of requiring effective stormwater management from small projects is to help reduce stormwater runoff in the community, to maintain groundwater recharge, to prevent degradation of the surface and groundwater quality, and to otherwise protect water resources and public safety.

**What needs to be submitted to the Township?**

- Simplified Approach Worksheet (Table 4)
- Simplified SWM site plan (i.e., sketch plan), containing the features described in Section 1, Step 1.
- The "Stormwater Management Practices (BMPs) and Conveyances Operation and Maintenance Agreement" (after approval and signature by the Township) recorded at the County Recorder of Deeds.

If the applicant is using a contractor to construct the project, the worksheet and sketch plan must be shared with the contractor to ensure the BMPs are properly installed.

## 1. Determination of Simplified Approach Volume Requirements

All proposed impervious areas (as required by the Municipality's Ordinance) must be included in the determination of the amount of new impervious areas and the size of proposed BMPs needed to manage stormwater. Proposed impervious areas on an individual residential lot generally include, but are not limited to: roof area, pavement, sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, permanent pools, or parking areas, etc. See the definitions provided in Section 2 and check with the Municipal Engineer to confirm what features of the proposed project must be included in the calculation of new impervious areas. Sidewalks, driveways, or patios that are constructed with gravel or pervious pavers and will not be disturbed or altered in the future may not need to be included in this calculation (check with the Municipal Engineer). In these cases, the amount of proposed impervious area may be reduced for proposed driveways, patios, and sidewalks through the use of gravel, pervious pavement, and turf pavers. All proposed impervious areas must be constructed so that runoff is conveyed to a BMP(s); no runoff may be directed to storm sewers, inlets or other impervious areas (i.e. street) without effective stormwater management from a site.

In addition, the use of low impact development is recommended to further minimize the effect of the new construction on water, land, and air. Low impact development is a method of development that incorporates design techniques that include: minimizing the amount of land disturbance, reducing the amount of impervious cover, disconnecting gutters and directing stormwater runoff to vegetated areas to infiltrate, and redirecting the flow of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces to vegetated areas instead of the street or gutter.

Below are the steps that must be undertaken to meet the Ordinance requirements. The size and description of the proposed construction as well as important aspects related to the design of the BMP(s) must be documented in the Simplified Approach Worksheet found in Table 4. All individuals planning on using the Simplified Approach are encouraged to review the planned project with the Municipal Engineer prior to initiating the Simplified Approach to confirm the following:

- That the proposed project is not otherwise exempt from the stormwater management control and engineered Stormwater Management Site Plan requirements of the Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance;
- That the proposed project size is within the range eligible to use this Simplified Approach;
- To determine which components of the proposed project must be included in the calculation of "impervious areas"; and
- Whether any local conditions are known to the Municipal Engineer that would preclude the use of any of the techniques included in this Simplified Approach.

**Step 1** - Prepare the Simplified SWM Site Plan (i.e. sketch plan) that includes:

- Name and address of the owner of the property, and name and address of individual preparing the plan (if different than the property owner), along with the date of submission.
- Location of all existing structures including buildings, driveways, and roads within fifty (50) feet of the project site.

- Location of proposed structures, driveways, or other paved areas with approximate size in square feet.
- Location, and distance, of any existing surface water features, such as streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands or other natural waterbodies, within fifty (50) feet of the project site and/or BMPs. Depending upon the Municipality's requirements, the following may also be required (check with the Municipal Engineer):
  - The project and/or BMPs cannot cause earth disturbance within fifty (50) feet from a perennial or intermittent stream, wetland or waterbody. Protecting this area from non-disturbance along the aforementioned features helps protect the applicant's land from erosion, the flood carrying capacity of streams, and the water quality of the waterbody. Where the applicant cannot meet the 50-foot non-disturbance width, the applicant should work with the Municipal Engineer to determine if a reduced width is acceptable, however a minimum of at least a 10 foot non-disturbance area width should be maintained.
  - If an existing buffer is legally prescribed (i.e., deed, covenant, easement, etc.) and it exceeds this requirements, the existing buffer must be maintained.
- Location, orientation, and dimensions of all proposed BMPs. For all rain gardens/bioretenion, infiltration trenches, and dry wells the length, width, and depth must be included on the plan. For rain barrels or cisterns the volume must be included.
- Location of any existing or proposed on-lot septic system and potable water wells showing rough proximity to infiltration facilities. See Section 3. Description of BMPs, for the appropriate setbacks for on-lot septic systems and potable water wells.

**Step 2 – Determine the Impervious Area to be Managed**

- Determine the total area of all proposed impervious surfaces that will need to drain to one or more BMP(s).
- Also determine the total area for proposed earth disturbance to complete the project and install the BMP(s). The total earth disturbance to complete a project is often greater than the project area to allow for access from construction vehicles, stock piling of materials and excavation. The total area of earth disturbance must account for all of the construction activities necessary to construct the project.
- Determine locations where BMP(s) need to be placed so that the appropriate amount of stormwater runoff from the proposed impervious surfaces can be captured and managed.

**Step 3 – Select the BMP(s) to be Used and Determine Appropriate Sizing Criteria**

- Select the BMP(s) to be used and determine the requirements of each from Section 3, Description of BMPs.
  - For instance, the back half of a garage may drain to a rain barrel and the front half of the garage and a driveway may drain to a bioretention area. Each BMP will be sized differently, manage stormwater runoff and will need to be designed to be consistent with Section 3.
- Then obtain the required storage volume and surface area needed for each of the proposed BMP(s) from the appropriate heading below.
- Complete Table 4 Simplified Approach Worksheet.

For Rain Barrels/Cisterns:

Step 3A – Select the proposed impervious area value in Column 1 of Table 1 that is closest to, but not less than the determined value.

Step 3B – Determine the volume that needs to be provided in cubic feet and gallons to satisfy the volume requirements using Columns 2 and 3 in Table 1.

For Rain Gardens/Bioretenation or Dry Well #1:

Step 3A – Select the proposed impervious area value in Column 1 of Table 2 that is closest to, but not less than the determined value.

Step 3B - Determine the volume that needs to be provided in cubic feet to satisfy the volume requirements using Column 2 in Table 2.

Step 3C – Using the value from Column 2 determined above, and the depth (D) of the proposed BMP, simply determine the surface area needed from Column 3 of Table 2.

Note: The arrows under Column 3 in Table 2 indicate which range of depths is appropriate for each BMP. To determine the depth based on the area, select an area that corresponds to the required volume, and is closest to, but not more than the area to be used. To determine the area based on the depth, select a depth that is closest to, but not less than the depth that is to be used.

For Infiltration Trench or Dry Well #2:

Step 3A – Select the proposed impervious area value in Column 1 of Table 3 that is closest to, but not less than the determined value.

Step 3B - Determine the volume that needs to be provided in cubic feet to satisfy the volume requirements using Column 2 in Table 3.

Step 3C – Using the value from Column 2 determined above, and the depth (D) of the proposed BMP, simply determine the surface area needed from Column 3 of Table 3.

Note: The arrows under Column 3 in Table 3 indicate which range of depths is appropriate for each BMP. To determine the depth based on the area, select an area that corresponds to the required volume, and is closest to, but not less than the area to be used. To determine the area based on the depth, select a depth that is closest to, but not less than the depth that is to be used.

**Step 4** – Submit the final SWM Site Plan, Simplified Approach Worksheet, and signed and notarized “Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement” (a sample document is provided in the accompanying appendix) to the Municipality for review and approval prior to beginning construction. After the Municipality has signed the “Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement”, record the Agreement at the County’s Office of Recorder of Deeds. Construction can begin only after the Municipality has issued its approval of the proposed project to the applicant.

**Table 1: Simplified Approach - Calculating Rain Barrel/Cistern Storage Volume for 1" Rainfall<sup>1</sup>**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	
Proposed Impervious Area (square feet)	Volume of Rain Barrel/Cistern <sup>2</sup> (cubic feet)	Volume of Rain Barrel/Cistern (gallons)	
<i>I</i>	$V_{RBcf}$	$V_{RBgal}$	
Sum of all Proposed Impervious Areas	$(1*(1/12)*I)/0.75=V_{RBcf}$	$V_{RBcf} * 7.48=V_{RBgal}$	
50	6	42	
100	11	83	
150	17	125	Rain Barrel
200	22	166	
250	28	208	
300	33	249	
350	39	291	
400	44	332	
450	50	374	
500	56	416	
550	61	457	Cistern
600	67	499	
650	72	540	
700	78	582	
750	83	623	
800	89	665	
850	94	706	
900	100	748	
950	106	790	
1,000	111	831	
1,050	117	873	
1,100	122	914	
1,150	128	956	
1,200	133	997	
1,250	139	1,039	
1,300	144	1,080	
1,350	150	1,122	
1,400	156	1,164	
1,450	161	1,205	
1,500	167	1,247	
1,550	172	1,288	
1,600	178	1,330	
1,650	183	1,371	
1,700	189	1,413	
1,750	194	1,454	
1,800	200	1,496	
1,850	206	1,538	
1,900	211	1,579	
1,950	217	1,621	
2,000	222	1,662	

<sup>1</sup>The typical volume of a rain barrel is between 50-200 gallons, so more than one rain barrel may be needed. Larger volumes may require a cistern.

<sup>2</sup>It is assumed that the rain barrel/cistern is 25% full prior to receiving runoff.



**Table 2: Simplified Approach - Calculating Rain Garden/Bioretenion and Dry Well #1 Storage Volume and Surface Area for 1 Inch Rainfall**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3							
Total Proposed Impervious Area (square feet)	Volume of Rain Garden/Bioretenion or Dry Well #1 <sup>1</sup> (cubic feet)	Surface Area of Rain Garden/Bioretenion or Dry Well #1							
		Acceptable Depths for Each BMP are indicated by the arrows below (square feet)							
		Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 0.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 1.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 1.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 4.0'
		Rain Garden /Bioretenion (0.5'-1.0')			Dry Well #1 (1.5'-4.0')				
I	V	A(sf)							
Sum of all Proposed Impervious Areas	$I*(1/12)*I= V$	$V/D=A$							
50	4	8	4	3	2	2	1	1	1
100	8	17	8	6	4	3	3	2	2
150	13	25	13	8	6	5	4	4	3
200	17	33	17	11	8	7	6	5	4
250	21	42	21	14	10	8	7	6	5
300	25	50	25	17	13	10	8	7	6
350	29	58	29	19	15	12	10	8	7
400	33	67	33	22	17	13	11	10	8
450	38	75	38	25	19	15	13	11	9
500	42	83	42	28	21	17	14	12	10
550	46	92	46	31	23	18	15	13	11
600	50	100	50	33	25	20	17	14	13
650	54	108	54	36	27	22	18	15	14
700	58	117	58	39	29	23	19	17	15
750	63	125	63	42	31	25	21	18	16
800	67	133	67	44	33	27	22	19	17
850	71	142	71	47	35	28	24	20	18
900	75	150	75	50	38	30	25	21	19
950	79	158	79	53	40	32	26	23	20
1,000	83	167	83	56	42	33	28	24	21
1,050	88	175	88	58	44	35	29	25	22
1,100	92	183	92	61	46	37	31	26	23
1,150	96	192	96	64	48	38	32	27	24
1,200	100	200	100	67	50	40	33	29	25
1,250	104	208	104	69	52	42	35	30	26
1,300	108	217	108	72	54	43	36	31	27
1,350	113	225	113	75	56	45	38	32	28
1,400	117	233	117	78	58	47	39	33	29
1,450	121	242	121	81	60	48	40	35	30
1,500	125	250	125	83	63	50	42	36	31
1,550	129	258	129	86	65	52	43	37	32
1,600	133	267	133	89	67	53	44	38	33
1,650	138	275	138	92	69	55	46	39	34
1,700	142	283	142	94	71	57	47	40	35
1,750	146	292	146	97	73	58	49	42	36
1,800	150	300	150	100	75	60	50	43	38
1,850	154	308	154	103	77	62	51	44	39
1,900	158	317	158	106	79	63	53	45	40
1,950	163	325	163	108	81	65	54	46	41
2,000	167	333	167	111	83	67	56	48	42

<sup>1</sup> It is assumed that the rain garden/bioretenion or the dry well #1 are empty prior to receiving runoff (i.e. 0% full)

**Table 3: Simplified Approach - Calculating Infiltration Trench and Dry Well #2 Storage Volume and Surface Area for 1 Inch of Rainfall**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3							
Total Proposed Impervious Area (square feet)	Volume of Infiltration Trench or Dry Well #2 <sup>1</sup> (cubic feet)	Surface Area of Infiltration Trench or Dry Well #2							
		Acceptable Depths for Each BMP are indicated by the arrows below (square feet)							
		Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 1.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 4.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 4.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 5.0'
<i>I</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>A(sf)</i>							
Sum of all Proposed Impervious Areas	$(1*(1/12)*I)/(0.4)^1 = V$	$V/D=A$							
50	10	7	5	4	3	3	3	2	2
100	21	14	10	8	7	6	5	5	4
150	31	21	16	13	10	9	8	7	6
200	42	28	21	17	14	12	10	9	8
250	52	35	26	21	17	15	13	12	10
300	63	42	31	25	21	18	16	14	13
350	73	49	36	29	24	21	18	16	15
400	83	56	42	33	28	24	21	19	17
450	94	63	47	38	31	27	23	21	19
500	104	69	52	42	35	30	26	23	21
550	115	76	57	46	38	33	29	25	23
600	125	83	63	50	42	36	31	28	25
650	135	90	68	54	45	39	34	30	27
700	146	97	73	58	49	42	36	32	29
750	156	104	78	63	52	45	39	35	31
800	167	111	83	67	56	48	42	37	33
850	177	118	89	71	59	51	44	39	35
900	188	125	94	75	63	54	47	42	38
950	198	132	99	79	66	57	49	44	40
1,000	208	139	104	83	69	60	52	46	42
1,050	219	146	109	88	73	63	55	49	44
1,100	229	153	115	92	76	65	57	51	46
1,150	240	160	120	96	80	68	60	53	48
1,200	250	167	125	100	83	71	63	56	50
1,250	260	174	130	104	87	74	65	58	52
1,300	271	181	135	108	90	77	68	60	54
1,350	281	188	141	113	94	80	70	63	56
1,400	292	194	146	117	97	83	73	65	58
1,450	302	201	151	121	101	86	76	67	60
1,500	313	208	156	125	104	89	78	69	63
1,550	323	215	161	129	108	92	81	72	65
1,600	333	222	167	133	111	95	83	74	67
1,650	344	229	172	138	115	98	86	76	69
1,700	354	236	177	142	118	101	89	79	71
1,750	365	243	182	146	122	104	91	81	73
1,800	375	250	188	150	125	107	94	83	75
1,850	385	257	193	154	128	110	96	86	77
1,900	396	264	198	158	132	113	99	88	79
1,950	406	271	203	163	135	116	102	90	81
2,000	417	278	208	167	139	119	104	93	83

<sup>1</sup> Assumes a percent void volume of 40%

**Table-4: Simplified Approach Worksheet**

Name of Property Owner(s):		Date:		
Name of Applicant(s) [if different than Owner(s)]:				
Contact Phone #:		Email Address:		
Address of Project:				
Description of Project:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Met with Municipal Engineer to discuss proposed project. [insert date of meeting]				
Distance from earth disturbance to nearest surface water feature (stream, pond, wetland, etc.)				
(if required by the Municipality, circle one):    50 feet or less                                      More than 50 feet				
<input type="checkbox"/> Step 1: Attach Simplified SWM Site Plan (i.e. sketch plan), per Section 1, Step 1				
<b>Step 2: Determine the Impervious Area to be Managed</b>				
Total Proposed Impervious Area (square feet):				
Total Earth Disturbance (square feet):				
<b>Step 3: Select the BMP(s) to be Used and Appropriate Sizing Criteria</b>				
<b>Rain Barrel or Cistern</b>				
Proposed Impervious Surface from Column 1 in Table 1	Volume from Column 3 in Table 1			
<b>Rain Garden/Bioretenention or Dry Well #1</b>				
Proposed Impervious Surface from Column 1 in Table 2	Volume of BMP from Column 2 in Table 2	Area Dimensions of BMP - Column 3 in Table 2	Depth of BMP from Column 3 in Table 2	Types of Materials to be Used
<b>Infiltration Trench or Dry Well #2</b>				
Proposed Impervious Surface from Column 1 in Table 3	Volume of BMP from Column 2 in Table 3	Area Dimensions of BMP - Column 3 in Table 3	Depth of BMP from Column 3 in Table 3	Types of Materials to be Used
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Step 4: Complete, Sign &amp; have Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement Notarized and Recorded at the County Recorder of Deeds (when signed by Municipality)</b>				

Note: For additional BMPs, use additional sheet(s).

## 2. Definitions

These definitions apply only to this Simplified Approach to Stormwater Management for Small Projects Handbook. The definitions included in the Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance also apply.

**Best Management Practice (BMP)** – As defined in the Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance, but generally including activities, facilities, designs, measures or procedures used to manage stormwater impacts from land development and earth disturbance activities to meet stormwater quality, runoff control and groundwater recharge protection requirements. BMPs include, but are not limited to, a wide variety of practices and devices such as: infiltration facilities (dry wells and infiltration trenches), filter strips, low impact design, bioretention (rain gardens), permeable paving, grassed swales, and manufactured devices (cisterns and rain barrels). Structural stormwater BMPs are permanent appurtenances to the project site.

**Geotextile** - A fabric manufactured from synthetic fibers which provides a separation between different types of media (i.e., soil and stone), and is used to achieve specific objectives, including infiltration or filtration.

**Hotspot** - Areas where land use or activities generate highly contaminated runoff, with concentrations of pollutants that are higher than those that are typically found in stormwater (e.g. vehicle salvage yards, recycling facilities, vehicle fueling stations, fleet storage areas, vehicle equipment and cleaning facilities, and vehicle service and maintenance facilities).

**Impervious Surface** - As defined in the Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance, but generally including any surface that prevents the infiltration of water into the ground. Impervious surfaces generally include, but are not limited to, streets, sidewalks, pavements, driveway areas, or roofs. The applicant should review the Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance or consult with the Municipal Engineer to confirm what components of the proposed project are considered "impervious surfaces". Decks, swimming pools, compacted soils or stone surfaces (such as for vehicle movement or parking), among other features, may be included in the Municipality's definition of "impervious surfaces".

**Infiltration** - Movement of surface water into the soil, where it is absorbed by plant roots, transpired or evaporated into the atmosphere, or percolated downward to recharge groundwater.

**Low Impact Development** - A land development and construction approach that uses various land planning, design practices, and technologies to simultaneously conserve and protect natural resource systems, and reduce infrastructure costs.

**Percent Void Volume** – The volume of void space, expressed as a percentage, of the total volume of the storage facility (void volume + volume of solid materials providing structural support for the storage facility).

**Pervious Surface** - Any area not defined as impervious surface.

**Potable** – A water supply that is either absent of contaminants or contains contaminant levels that are below a given threshold level that makes the water as suitable for drinking.

**Runoff** - Any part of precipitation that flows over the land surface.

**Stormwater** - Drainage runoff from the surface of the land resulting from precipitation, or snow or ice melt.

### **3. Description of BMPs**

The following is a description of several types of BMPs that could be implemented. The requirements of each BMP as described below are taken directly from the PA Stormwater BMP Manual (December, 2006). Refer to the PA BMP Manual (latest version) which can be found on the PA Department of Environmental Protection's website.

#### **Rain Barrels/Cisterns**

Rain Barrels are large containers that collect drainage from roof leaders and temporarily store water to be released to lawns, gardens, and other landscaped areas after the rainfall has ended. Rain Barrels are typically between 50 to 200 gallons in size. The stored water can also be used as a non-potable water supply. Cisterns are larger than rain barrels having volumes of 200 gallons or more, and can be placed either on the surface or underground. Figures 1 and 2 show examples of rain barrels and cisterns, respectively, that could be used to manage stormwater from a project. Rain barrels and cisterns are manufactured in a variety of shapes and sizes. All of these facilities must make provisions for the following items:

- There must be a means to release the water stored in the container between storm events in order for the necessary storage volume to be available for the next storm.
- Stormwater must be kept from entering other potable systems, and pipes and storage units must be clearly marked "Do Not Drink".
- An overflow outlet should be placed a few inches below the top of the storage container with an overflow pipe to divert flow away from structures once the storage containers are filled.
- Use screens to filter debris, and covers (lids) placed over the containers to prevent insects and debris from entering the storage chamber.
- Make sure cisterns are watertight and do not leak.
- Rain barrels are typically assumed to be 25% full to calculate volume since they are not always emptied before each storm. The tables contained in this Handbook were developed to account for the 25% increase in the required storage of a rain barrel or a cistern.



Source (picture on left): <http://www.rfcity.org/Eng/Stormwater/YourProperty/YourProperty.htm>  
Source (picture on right): <http://www.floridata.com/tracks/transplantedgardener/Rainbarrels.cfm>

**Figure 1: Rain Barrels**



Source (for both pictures): Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual (PADEP, 2006)

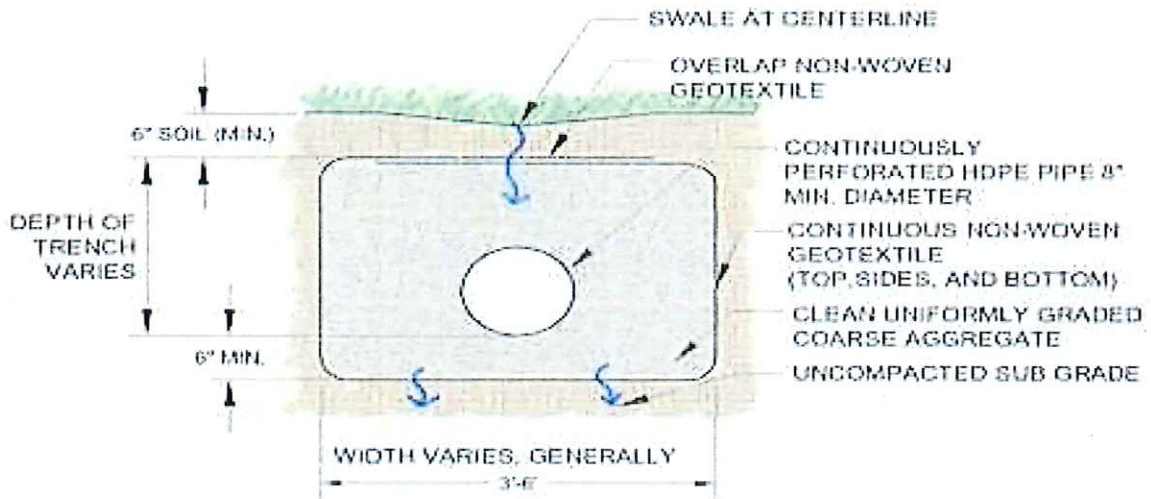
**Figure 2: Cisterns**

## **Infiltration Trench**

An infiltration trench is a long, narrow, rock-filled trench, with or without a perforated pipe placed within the rock to distribute water evenly along the trench, that receives stormwater runoff, and has no outlet. Runoff is stored in the void space between the stones and in the pipe, and infiltrates through the bottom of the trench into the underlying soil matrix. Figure 3 shows a typical cross-section of an infiltration trench configuration. Infiltration trenches shall incorporate or make provisions for the following elements:

- These facilities should be located a minimum of ten (10) feet (or as otherwise required by the Municipality) from the building foundation to avoid foundation seepage problems, and are not recommended if their installation would create a risk of flooding other structures constructed at or below grade.
- Perforated pipe placed within the rock is to be set level.
- The width is limited to between 3 to 8 feet, and the depth ranges from 2 to 5 feet.
- Trench should be wrapped in nonwoven geotextile (top, sides, and bottom).
- There should be a positive overflow that allows stormwater that cannot be stored or infiltrated to be discharged into a nearby vegetated area.
- Roof downspouts may be connected to infiltration trenches, but should contain a cleanout to collect sediment and debris before entering the infiltration area.
- Infiltration testing is recommended to ensure soil is capable of infiltrating stormwater.
- It is recommended that there be a 2 foot clearance above the regularly occurring seasonal high water table, and have a minimum depth to bedrock of 2 feet.
- The infiltration trench should be at least 50 feet from individual water supply wells, 100 feet from community or municipal water supply wells, and 50 feet from any septic system component. It should not be located near stormwater Hotspots (refer to B.2 Definitions).
- The infiltration trench should be located so that it presents no threat to sub-surface structures such as building foundations and basements.
- Protect infiltration areas from compaction by heavy equipment during and after construction.
- Infiltration trenches should be constructed after all earth disturbance associated with a given project or site is stabilized to avoid clogging.
- The ratio of the drainage area which stormwater runoff is collected from to the area of the footprint (bottom area) of the infiltration portion of the facility should be as small as possible with a ratio of less than 5:1 preferred.





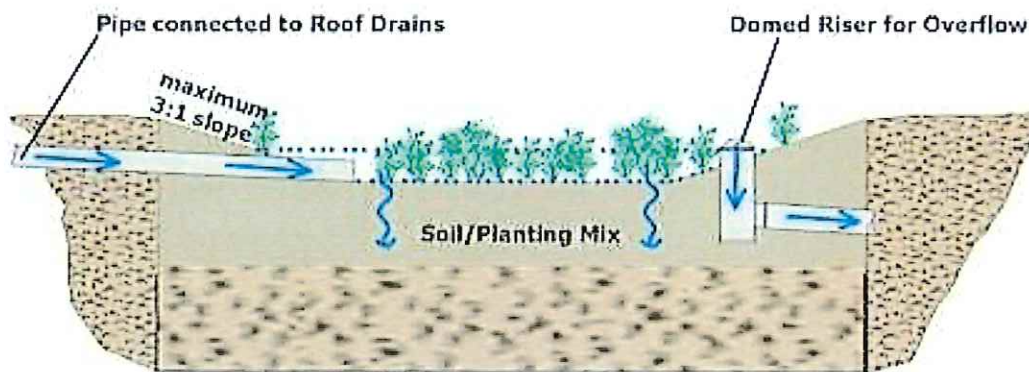
Source: Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual (PADEP, 2006)

**Figure 3: Cross-Section of Typical Infiltration Trench**

### Rain Garden/Bioretention Area

A Rain Garden (Bioretention Area) is an excavated depression area on the surface of the land in which native vegetation is planted to filter and use stormwater runoff. Runoff ponds on top of the surface of the rain garden and then infiltrates into an enhanced soil/planting mix below the surface where plants can use the water to grow. Bioretention improves water quality, with the vegetation planted in the facility filtering the water, and the root systems encouraging or promoting infiltration. Figure 4 shows a cross-section of a typical rain garden. Key elements of a rain garden include:

- Recommended ponding depths not exceeding **1 foot**.
- Native vegetation that can tolerate dry and wet weather.
- An overflow area where, if the bioretention area were to overflow, the overflow would flow over pervious surfaces (i.e. grass, meadow), and would not cause harm to property, or;
- An overflow, such as a domed riser, to allow excess flow from large storms to travel to other infiltration areas, pervious areas, or connected storm systems designed to receive the excess runoff.
- For most areas, slopes should be limited to 3:1, maximum; however, where space is limited, 2:1 side slopes may be acceptable with approval from the municipal engineer.
- The soil/planting mix depth should not be less than 1.5 feet deep and typically consist of a mixture of topsoil, sand and compost (i.e. mulch). The topsoil, sand and compost should be uniformly mixed by volume in a 50%, 30%, 20% mixture, respectively.



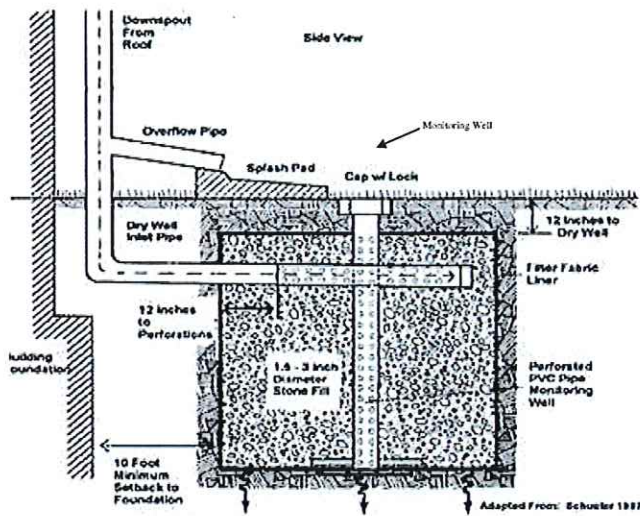
Source: Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual (PADEP, 2006)

**Figure 4: Cross-Section of Typical Rain Garden/Bioretention Area**

## Dry Wells

A dry well, also referred to as a seepage pit, is a subsurface storage facility that temporarily stores and infiltrates runoff from the roofs of buildings or other impervious surfaces. A dry well can be either a structural prefabricated chamber (Dry Well #1) or an excavated pit filled with stone fill (Dry Well #2). Dry Wells discharge the stored runoff via infiltration into the surrounding or underlying soils. Figure 5 shows a typical prefabricated dry well and a typical dry well configuration with stone fill. The following elements shall be incorporated into all dry well designs:

- These facilities should be located a minimum of ten (10) feet (or as otherwise required by the Municipality) from the building foundation to avoid foundation seepage problems, and are not recommended if their installation would create a risk of flooding other structures constructed at or below grade.
- Dry well should be constructed after all earth disturbance associated with a given project or site is stabilized to avoid clogging.
- During construction, compaction of the subgrade soil in the bottom of the dry well should be avoided, and construction should be performed only with light machinery.
- For Dry Well #2 designs, the depth of dry well should be between 1.5 feet to 4 feet. Gravel fill should consist of uniformly graded stone with an average diameter of between one and one half and two (1.5 –2.0) inches with the gravel fill wrapped in a nonwoven geotextile to separate the stone fill from the surrounding soil.
- At least 1 foot of soil must be placed over the top of the dry well.
- Dry wells should be inspected at least four (4) times annually as well as after large storm events.
- Dry wells should have overflow pipes to allow high volumes of runoff to overflow the facility and flow into a connected infiltration area, pervious area, or other connected storm sewer designed to receive the excess runoff.
- Every dry well must have at least one monitoring well to assist in the inspection of the dry well to determine how much water is retained within the well during dry weather periods.
- Infiltration testing is recommended to ensure the underlying soil is capable of infiltrating the needed volume of stormwater.



Source (for picture on left): <http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/pages/BMPsForMarinas.htm>

Source (for picture on right): <http://www.copelandconcreteinc.net/1800652.html>

**Figure 5: Typical Dry Well Configuration filled with Stone Fill (DRY WELL #2) (Left) and Structural Prefabricated Chamber (DRY WELL #1) (Right)**

## 4. Example

### Simplified Approach to Stormwater Management for a Residential Garage and Driveway addition

Joe Homeowner wants to build a 400 square foot two car garage, and a 540 square foot (30' long x 18' wide) impervious driveway that is graded so that the stormwater runoff drains to the grassy area along one edge of the driveway. (An annotated copy of Table 1 is provided below as Table 5 and an annotated copy of Table 3 is provided below as Table 6, and outlines the steps of this example) and a completed Table 4 is provided as Table 7.

**STEP 1** – Make a sketch of the site plan as shown in Figure 6.

**STEP 2** - Determine the total area of all proposed impervious surfaces to drain to each BMP:

Garage Roof (Front)	10 ft. x 20 ft.	=	200 sq. ft
Garage Roof (Rear)	10 ft. x 20 ft.	=	200 sq. ft.
Driveway	30 ft. x 18 ft.	=	540 sq. ft.
			-----
<b>Total Proposed Impervious Surface</b>			<b>940 sq. ft.</b>
<b>Total Proposed Earth Disturbance Area</b>			<b>2,500 sq. ft. (estimated)</b>

Note: If the driveway used pervious pavement (i.e. paving blocks), then the total impervious area would only be 400 square feet, and no stormwater management practices would need to control runoff from the project.

**STEP 3** – Select the BMP(s) to be Used and Appropriate Sizing Criteria

Select a BMP or combination of BMPs from Section 3 to be used to satisfy the volume requirement. Determine the length, width, depth and other requirements for the BMPs in Section 3. A BMP needs to be placed to catch runoff from the back of the garage, and a BMP needs to be placed to capture runoff from the front of the garage and the driveway. Figure 6 shows the direction the runoff flows and the locations where the BMPs are to be placed.

Joe Homeowner would like to use a rain barrel (BMP #1) to capture the runoff from the rear of the garage and an infiltration trench (BMP #2) to capture runoff from the front of the garage and the driveway.

**BMP #1 (Rain Barrel/Cistern) – Steps 3A and 3B**

**STEP 3A** - Select the proposed impervious area value for BMP #1, the rain barrel or cistern, in Column 1 that is closest to, but not less than 200 in Table 1:

The value in Column 1 that is closest to but is not less than 200 is 200.

**STEP 3B** - Determine the volume that BMP #1 must be to satisfy the volume requirements using Columns 2 and 3 in Table 1:

The volume in gallons of the rain barrel/cistern to be used as BMP #1, assuming the rain barrel/cistern is 25% full, is determined by finding the value in Column 3 for the same row that corresponds to the impervious area value determined in Step 1. Therefore, the volume of BMP #1, the rain barrel/cistern must be  $\geq 166$  gallons. Depending on the size of the rain barrel(s), a combination of rain barrels could be used in succession as shown in Figure 1, or a cistern could be used.

**BMP #2 (Infiltration Trench) - Steps 3A through 3C**

**STEP 3A** - Select the proposed impervious area value for BMP #2, the infiltration trench, using Column 1 in Table 6:

Find the row in Column 1 that is closest to but not less than 740 (200 from the front of the garage + 540 from the driveway). Therefore, the value selected is 750.

**STEP 3B** - Determine the volume that BMP #2, the infiltration trench must be to satisfy the volume requirements using Column 2 in Table 6:

The volume of the infiltration trench to be used as BMP #2, assuming a percent void volume of 40%, is determined by finding the value Column 2 that is in the same row as 750 square feet from Column 1 as described in Step 2. Therefore, the volume of BMP #2 must be 156 cubic feet.

**STEP 3C** - Utilizing the value from Column 2 determined above, and the surface area that the proposed BMP will occupy, determine the depth needed using Column 3 in Table 6:

Joe Homeowner would like to place the infiltration trench along the edge of the driveway so it would have a length of 20 feet. The smallest width that can be used, as stated in the infiltration trench requirements in Section 3, is 3 feet. Therefore, the area of the infiltration trench is:

$$20 \text{ feet} * 3 \text{ feet} = 60 \text{ square feet}$$

To find the minimum depth of the trench move toward the right side of the table from 156 cubic feet in Column 2 to Column 3, and find the column with a value of as close to but not

more than 60 square feet, which is 52 square feet. Then obtain the minimum depth of the facility by reading the depth from the column heading at the top of the table. Therefore, the depth of the trench would need to be 3 feet.

**Selected BMPs:**

**BMP #1: Rain barrel(s) that provides for at least 166 gallons, and**

**BMP #2: A 20' long x 3' wide x 3' deep infiltration trench**

Table 5: Example – Calculating Storage Volume for Rain Barrel/Cistern

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Proposed Impervious Area (square feet)	Volume of Rain Barrel/Cistern <sup>1</sup> (cubic feet)	Volume of Rain Barrel/Cistern (gallons)
<i>I</i>	$V_{RBcf}$	$V_{RBgal}$
Sum of all Proposed Impervious Areas	$(1 * (1/12) * I) / 0.75 = V_{RBcf}$	$V_{RBcf} * 7.48 = V_{RBgal}$
50	6	42
100	11	83
150	17	125
200	22	166
250	28	208
300	33	249
350	39	291
400	44	332
450	50	374
500	56	416
550	61	457
600	67	499
650	72	540
700	78	582
750	83	623
800	89	665
850	94	706
900	100	748
950	106	790
999	111	830

<sup>1</sup>Assume that the rain barrel/cistern is 25% full



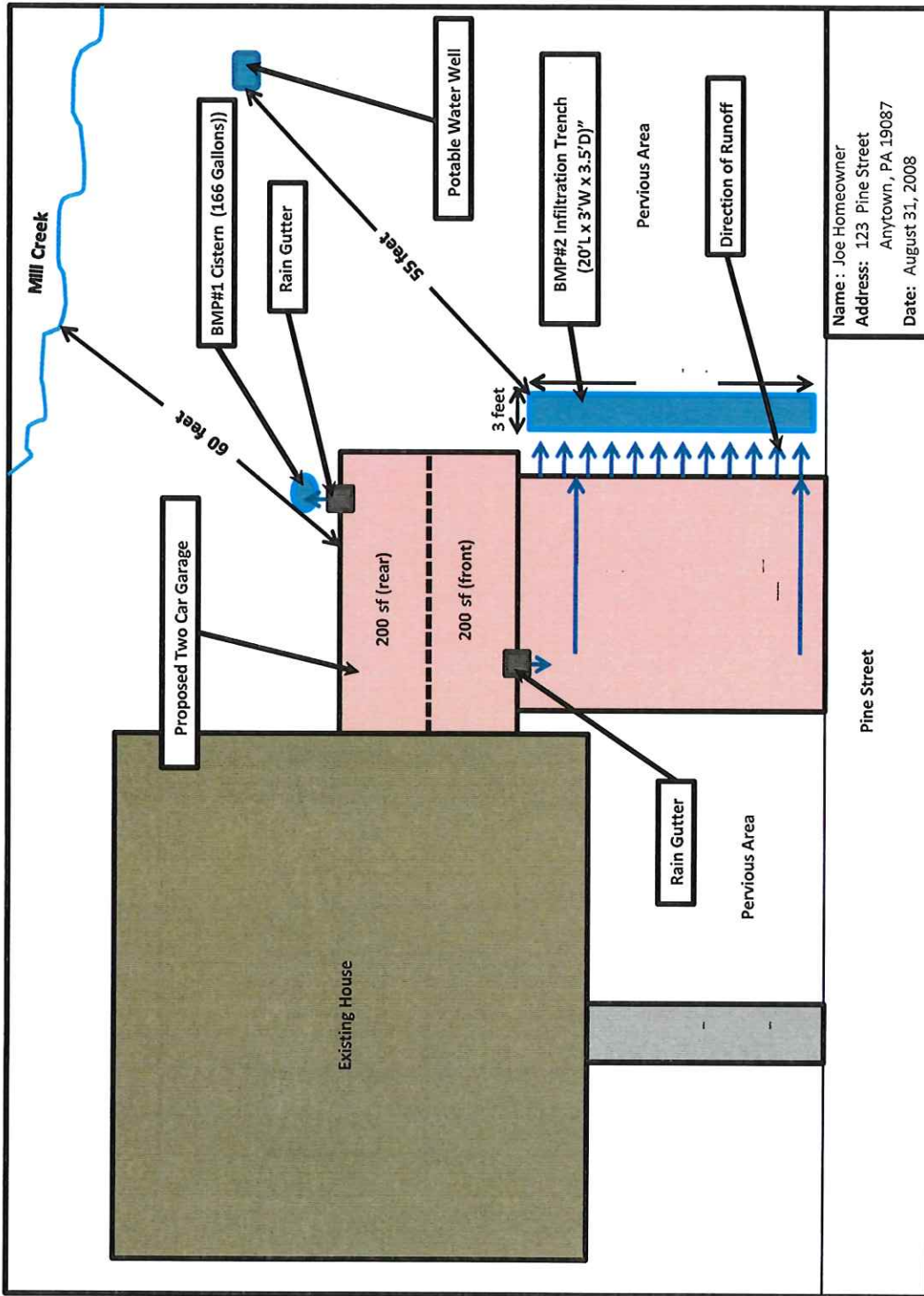


Figure 6: Example of Simplified Stormwater Management Site Plan for Joe Homeowner

Table 6: Example – Calculating Storage Volume Surface Area and Depth for Infiltration Trench

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3																																																																																																																																																																						
Total Proposed Impervious Area (square feet)	Volume of Infiltration Trench or Dry Well #2 (cubic feet)	Surface Area of Infiltration Trench or Dry Well #2 Acceptable Depths for Each BMP are indicated by the arrows below																																																																																																																																																																						
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 1.5'</th> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.0'</th> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.5'</th> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.0'</th> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.5'</th> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 4.0'</th> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 4.5'</th> <th>Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 5.0'</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td><td>16</td><td>13</td><td>10</td><td>9</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td><td>21</td><td>17</td><td>14</td><td>12</td><td>10</td><td>9</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35</td><td>26</td><td>21</td><td>17</td><td>15</td><td>13</td><td>12</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>42</td><td>31</td><td>25</td><td>21</td><td>18</td><td>16</td><td>14</td><td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>49</td><td>36</td><td>29</td><td>24</td><td>21</td><td>18</td><td>16</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>56</td><td>42</td><td>33</td><td>28</td><td>24</td><td>21</td><td>19</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>63</td><td>47</td><td>38</td><td>31</td><td>27</td><td>23</td><td>21</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>69</td><td>52</td><td>42</td><td>35</td><td>30</td><td>26</td><td>23</td><td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>76</td><td>57</td><td>46</td><td>38</td><td>33</td><td>29</td><td>25</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>83</td><td>63</td><td>50</td><td>42</td><td>36</td><td>31</td><td>28</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90</td><td>68</td><td>54</td><td>45</td><td>39</td><td>34</td><td>30</td><td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>97</td><td>73</td><td>58</td><td>49</td><td>42</td><td>36</td><td>32</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>104</td><td>78</td><td>62</td><td>52</td><td>45</td><td>39</td><td>35</td><td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>111</td><td>83</td><td>67</td><td>56</td><td>48</td><td>42</td><td>37</td><td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>118</td><td>89</td><td>71</td><td>59</td><td>51</td><td>44</td><td>39</td><td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>125</td><td>94</td><td>75</td><td>63</td><td>54</td><td>47</td><td>42</td><td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>132</td><td>99</td><td>79</td><td>66</td><td>57</td><td>49</td><td>44</td><td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>139</td><td>104</td><td>83</td><td>69</td><td>59</td><td>52</td><td>46</td><td>42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 1.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 2.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 3.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 4.0'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 4.5'	Area Required for a BMP with a Depth(D) of 5.0'	7	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	14	10	8	7	6	5	5	4	21	16	13	10	9	8	7	6	28	21	17	14	12	10	9	8	35	26	21	17	15	13	12	10	42	31	25	21	18	16	14	13	49	36	29	24	21	18	16	15	56	42	33	28	24	21	19	17	63	47	38	31	27	23	21	19	69	52	42	35	30	26	23	21	76	57	46	38	33	29	25	23	83	63	50	42	36	31	28	25	90	68	54	45	39	34	30	27	97	73	58	49	42	36	32	29	104	78	62	52	45	39	35	31	111	83	67	56	48	42	37	33	118	89	71	59	51	44	39	35	125	94	75	63	54	47	42	38	132	99	79	66	57	49	44	40	139	104	83	69	59	52
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<sup>1</sup> Assumes a percent void volume of 40%

**Table 7: Simplified Approach Worksheet – Example for Joe Homeowner**

Name of Property Owner(s): <b>Joe Homeowner</b>			Date: <b>8/26/12</b>		
Name of Applicant(s) [if different than Owner(s)]: <b>N/A</b>					
Contact Phone #: <b>610-555-1234</b>		Email Address: <b>joe@homeowner.com</b>			
Address of Project: <b>123 Pine St., Anytown, PA 19355</b>					
Description of Project: <b>Add a 2-car garage and driveway</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Met with Municipal Engineer to discuss proposed project. [date of meeting <b>6/1/12</b> ]					
Distance from earth disturbance to nearest surface water feature (stream, pond, wetland, etc.) (if required by the Municipality, circle one):    50 feet or less <b>More than 50 feet</b>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Step 1: Attach Simplified SWM Site Plan (i.e. sketch plan), per Section .1, Step 1</b>					
<b>Step 2: Determine the Impervious Area to be Managed</b>					
Total Proposed Impervious Area (square feet): <b>940 sq. feet</b>					
Total Earth Disturbance (square feet): <b>~ 2,500 sq. feet</b>					
<b>Step 3: Select the BMP(s) to be Used and Appropriate Sizing Criteria</b>					
<b>Rain Barrel or Cistern</b>					
Proposed Impervious Surface from Column 1 in Table 1		Volume from Column 3 in Table 1			
<b>200 sq. feet</b>		<b>166 gallons</b>			
<b>Rain Garden/Bioretenention or Dry Well #1</b>					
Proposed Impervious Surface from Column 1 in Table 2	Volume of BMP from Column 2 in Table 2	Area Dimensions of BMP - Column 3 in Table 2	Depth of BMP from Column 3 in Table 2	Types of Materials to be Used	
<b>N/A</b>					
<b>Infiltration Trench or Dry Well #2</b>					
Proposed Impervious Surface from Column 1 in Table 3	Volume of BMP from Column 2 in Table 3	Area Dimensions of BMP - Column 3 in Table 3	Depth of BMP from Column 3 in Table 3	Types of Materials to be Used	
<b>740 sq. feet</b>	<b>156 cubic feet</b>	<b>20 ft by 3 ft</b>	<b>3 ft</b>	<b>Infiltration trench, uniformly graded aggregate, 8" HDPE pipe, geotextile, grass planted on top.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Step 4: Complete, Sign &amp; have Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Agreement Notarized and Recorded at the County Recorder of Deeds (when signed by the Municipality)</b>					

Note: For additional BMPs, use additional sheet(s).

## **5. Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement**

It is the property owner's responsibility to properly maintain BMP's. It is also the property owner's responsibility to inform any future buyers of the function, operation, and maintenance needed for any BMPs on the property prior to the purchase of the property. The accompanying sample "Stormwater Management Practices (BMPs) and Conveyances Operation and Maintenance Agreement" (see Appendix E) outlines the maintenance required for each type of BMP, the responsibilities of the property owner, and the rights of the Township in regard to inspection and enforcement of the maintenance requirements.

The "Stormwater Management Practices (BMPs) and Conveyances Operation and Maintenance Agreement" must be signed, notarized, and submitted to the Township. Following the signature by the Township, the property owner must have the Agreement recorded at the County Recorder of Deeds, so that the Agreement will be applicable to future property owners.

## **5. Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement**

It is the property owner's responsibility to properly maintain BMPs. It is also the property owner's responsibility to inform any future buyers of the function, operation, and maintenance needed for any BMPs on the property prior to the purchase of the property. The accompanying sample "Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement" (see accompanying appendix) outlines the maintenance required for each type of BMP, the responsibilities of the property owner, and the rights of the Municipality in regards to inspection and enforcement of the maintenance requirements.

The "Simplified Approach Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Plan and Agreement" must be signed, notarized and submitted to the Municipality. Following the signature by the Municipality, the property owner must have the Agreement recorded at the County Recorder of Deeds, so that the Agreement will be applicable to future property owners.

**ORDINANCE APPENDIX B**

**CONSERVATION DESIGN AND  
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT  
SITE DESIGN**

# **CONSERVATION DESIGN & LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT SITE DESIGN**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Traditional approaches to land development often radically alter natural hydrologic conditions by constructing collection and conveyance systems that are designed to remove runoff from a site as quickly as possible and capture it in a detention basin. This approach has often led to the degradation of water quality, reduced groundwater recharge, and increased volumes of stormwater runoff, as well as the imposition of expenditures to detain and manage concentrated runoff downstream. Fortunately, the study of hydrology (the way rainfall interacts with slopes, soils, and vegetation) offers a number of alternative approaches that respect the natural environment and ultimately save money. The accompanying ordinance encourages the use of Conservation Design (CD), Low Impact Development (LID), and green infrastructure to preserve, restore and maintain pre-development hydrology on sites with planned land disturbance and development activity. The site design practices and recommendations included in this appendix provide a framework to assist developers, municipal planning commission members, and others involved in local land use planning with designing and implementing development that minimizes the impacts of stormwater runoff to local streams.

Conventionally designed development often divides a parcel into buildable lots, streets, and parking areas, while only keeping traditionally undevelopable areas (wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes) as open space. Existing site hydrology and natural features are often an afterthought in locating and designing stormwater systems. In contrast, Conservation Design and Low Impact Development practices strive to minimize landscape and natural feature disturbance to maintain a site's natural drainage patterns and flow conditions.

CD is a holistic site design process that aims to protect and maintain a site's unique natural, historic, and cultural features. CD emphasizes the protection of key land and environmental resources to maintain site hydrology; preserves and/or enhances significant concentrations of natural resources, open space, wildlife habitat, biodiversity corridors, and greenways (interconnected open space); incorporates unique natural, scenic, and historic site features into the configuration of the development; preserves the integral characteristics of the site as viewed from adjacent roads; and ensures flexibility in development design to meet community needs for complementary and aesthetically pleasing development.

LID consists of site design approaches and small-scale stormwater management practices that promote the use of natural systems for infiltration, evapotranspiration (returning moisture to the atmosphere through vegetation), and the harvest and reuse of rainwater. LID addresses the root cause of water quality impairment by managing stormwater as close to the point of generation as possible.

Together, CD and LID offer unique opportunities to balance the "carrying capacity" of the land, the human demands on the land (including land economics), and the design constraints and

opportunities of a site, which together allow for a dynamic interaction between people and the natural world. The goal is to produce a design that balances the demands of human use (scale, pattern, autonomy, privacy, views, etc.) with the requirements for a sustainable landscape (reduction in land fragmentation and use conflicts, preservation of watershed hydrology, protection of wildlife corridors and species diversity, conservation of natural resources, etc.). CD and LID are integrated development processes that respect natural site conditions and attempt to replicate and/or improve the natural hydrology of a site. The abundance of Chester County's streams and headwater areas, agricultural land (consisting of prime agricultural soils), unique aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and scenic and historic resources, argue for design approaches responsive to conservation principles.

This appendix provides information on the principles, processes, and common practices of CD and LID to assist designers and planners to achieve site designs that best maintain pre-construction stormwater runoff conditions, protect site amenities, and preserve natural resources. Components of this appendix include:

- Implementation Challenges
- Design Principles and Techniques;
- Design Process;
- Design Practices;
- Benefits of Conservation Design;
- Conclusion; and
- References.

## **IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES**

Various techniques exist to accomplish the purposes of CD and LID (see the list of Design Practices starting on Page 12). However, many municipal codes currently prevent creative site design and engineering by requiring mechanical “by the numbers” development of sites. Restrictive zoning, subjective economic concerns, jurisdictional preferences, and personal tastes determine how a site is developed and how stormwater will be managed. These can pose significant impediments to the use of CD and LID. Such issues, left unaddressed, will “fail to comprehensively maintain predevelopment ecological functions at sites and fail to prevent development impacts to overall watershed ecological health” (Low Impact Development, Prince George's County, Maryland). Several examples of practices that may be limited by municipal zoning or subdivision and land development ordinances (SALDO) are presented in the Design Practices section to assist municipalities, developers, and landowners to understand how to improve the development design process to allow or require CD and LID practices.

Dialogue between developers, municipalities, and planners should be encouraged early in the design process to evaluate all potential site design options. Discussions on proposed site layouts often do not occur until after the submission of preliminary/final developments plans. At this point, substantial time and expense have already gone into the development of these plans, resulting in the reduced preference to make substantial changes or re-designs. Thus, discussions of potential site considerations between landowners, developers, municipalities, and planners early in the design process is critical to ensuring CD and LID practices are incorporated. While the



Municipalities Planning Code prevents municipalities from mandating the submission of sketch plans unless they waive preliminary or final plan requirements, voluntary submission of these plans should be encouraged. Other options also exist; for example, municipalities could mandate the sketch plan but permit a one-step preliminary/final plan submission. Moreover, this site design process emphasizes the importance of dialogue. Remaining open minded to alternative site designs, including flexibility of area and bulk standards, building types, lot sizes, and even construction standards, among others, may achieve multiple benefits, not the least of which is the protection of site hydrology and improved management of stormwater.

One of the greatest challenges to reducing the impact of development is to control the volume of stormwater runoff generated from a site. Typically, a development's increase in impervious surface contributes to reduced infiltration, evapotranspiration, and attenuation of stormwater runoff. This can result in reduced groundwater levels and lower stream baseflow during periods of dry weather and higher stream flows during and after precipitation events (which can result in increased occurrences of flooding and the erosion and destabilization of downstream streambanks). CD and LID techniques strive to prevent these problems by encouraging land development site designs that minimize post-development runoff rates and volumes and minimize needs for artificial conveyance and storage facilities. This process attempts to incorporate the desired land development into the natural hydrologic landscape in a manner that maintains and utilizes existing site hydrology features and functions to minimize generation of new stormwater runoff, thus avoiding the cumulative environmental impacts often associated with land development and reducing the need for and size of constructed stormwater facilities.

Site design practices include preserving natural drainage features, minimizing impervious surface area, reducing the hydraulic connectivity of impervious surfaces, and protecting natural depression storage. Applying this site design process helps maintain site hydrology and manage stormwater by:

- minimizing the generation of stormwater runoff (achieved by designing to the land, considering site drainage patterns and infiltration characteristics, reducing grading and compaction, and considering scale and placement of buildings); managing stormwater as close to the point of generation as possible (by disconnecting impervious surfaces, rather than collecting storm flows from all such surfaces, and distributing such flows to landscaped-based BMPs);
- providing open and vegetated channel conveyance (as needed to treat water quality, reduce velocity and infiltrate); and
- managing remaining conveyed stormwater in common open space (as needed to disperse low velocity storm flows, treat water quality, infiltrate, and release).

A well-designed site will contain a mix of all these features.

In some communities, the use of CD and LID will require a paradigm shift in how we think about and regulate development; community education, be that of residents, developers, engineers, or community officials, will be important if we are to achieve the multiple benefits offered through the use of these alternative design principles and practices.

## **DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES**

CD and LID place significant emphasis on maintaining, mimicking, or improving the natural hydrology of land undergoing development. A site's natural hydrology refers to the drainage patterns and infiltration characteristics existing on a site. With CD and LID, effort is placed on development design that minimizes the generation of stormwater runoff. This can be achieved by designing to the land, i.e., giving consideration to site drainage patterns and site infiltration characteristics, reducing grading and compaction, and carefully considering the placement and scale of streets and buildings. Consideration of the natural drainage patterns of a site and the capacity of the site to infiltrate water are central to the concept of managing stormwater on-site.

Where stormwater is generated, the next step involves managing such storm flows as close to the source of generation as possible. This is achieved by disconnecting impervious surfaces and distributing storm flows to green infrastructure. Disconnection allows for management near the source of generation rather than the traditional approach of conveying all storm flows to a central "catch and release" facility (expensive to build and expensive to maintain). Where distributed management practices common to LID are insufficient to accommodate storm flows, CD encourages the use of open channel conveyance systems, such as vegetated channels, bioswales, and wet swales, that further manage storm flows in common open space. This multi-management approach (or four-step management process) – minimizing the generation of stormwater, landscape-based management near the point of generation, open channel conveyance, and management in common open space – is a clear advantage of CD (see Figure 1).

It should also be noted that CD is quite effective on sites with limited infiltration capability, principally, because the four-step management process builds redundancies into runoff management, seeking to achieve disconnection, using LID, providing open channel conveyance, and making use of common open space where other tools and techniques are insufficient on their own.

# **Figure 1**

## **Conservation Design Principles**

### **Maintaining Site Hydrology and Managing Stormwater**

#### **Step 1 – Minimize Generation of Stormwater Runoff through Development Design: Achieved by Designing to the Land & Optimizing the Cumulative Benefits of the Site’s Natural Hydrologic Features**

- Consider Natural Drainage Patterns and Infiltration Characteristics
- Reduce Grading and Compaction by Utilizing Natural Topography
- Consider Placement and Scale of Streets and Buildings
- Minimize Land Disturbance – both Surface and Subsurface
- Minimize Cumulative Area to be Covered by Impervious and Compacted Surfaces

#### **Step 2 – Manage Stormwater as Close to the Point of Generation as Possible using Distributed LID Practices**

- Take Advantage of the Natural Hydrologic Landscape to Achieve Runoff Controls
- Disconnect Impervious Surfaces
- Distribute Storm Flows to Green Infrastructure

#### **Step 3 – Utilize Open Channel Conveyance (as needed)**

#### **Step 4 – Management in Common Open Space (or as conveyed to other green infrastructure practices)**

- Integrate Management Facilities into the Natural Environment
- Incorporate Natural Site Features into the Design
- Create Site Amenities that can be Enjoyed by Residents and Provide a Community Aesthetic

No single approach is appropriate for all sites; rather, CD is a process by which to assess the appropriateness of different techniques (LID or otherwise) for different sites. The key to making CD and LID work is a willingness on the part of all involved to be flexible in how a particular site is developed. With this in mind, CD makes it possible to achieve multiple objectives, both in terms of site design (controlling peak flows, reducing total volume, and enhancing water quality), as well as those related to community (protecting natural resources, preserving habitat, interconnecting open space, providing greenways, and achieving better designed communities). (See Figure 2)

## Figure 2 Common Objectives Of Conservation Design

**Conservation Design** practices are intended to protect environmental resources, preserve open space, and manage stormwater by respecting natural drainage patterns and infiltration characteristics.

### Common Objectives

#### *Site Design Objectives*

Maintain Natural Drainage Patterns

Preserve Water Budget and Natural Infiltration

Minimize Grading – Design to the Site (Minimum Disturbance, Minimum Maintenance)

Reduce Need for Traditional Structural Stormwater Management Facilities (incorporate the use of Green Infrastructure)

Reduce Impervious Cover

Preserve Natural Features & Habitat (Contiguous Open Space)

Provide Open Space Linkages with Adjacent Parcels

#### *Community Objectives*

Community Commons/Greens

Lots that Front or Back to Open Space

“Neighborhoods” within Neighborhoods

Options for a Variety of Housing Types/Lot Sizes

Incorporate Unique Site Features into the Design (Natural/Scenic/Historic)

Preserve Characteristics of Site as Viewed from Adjoining Roads

Provide Trail Systems and/or Alternative Transportation Options

CD and LID involve identifying and prioritizing natural resources and natural and constructed hydrologic features and incorporating such features into the overall site design to take advantage of their efficiencies in hydrologic performance, their cost efficiencies of reducing the need for or size of constructed stormwater facilities, and their aesthetic amenities.

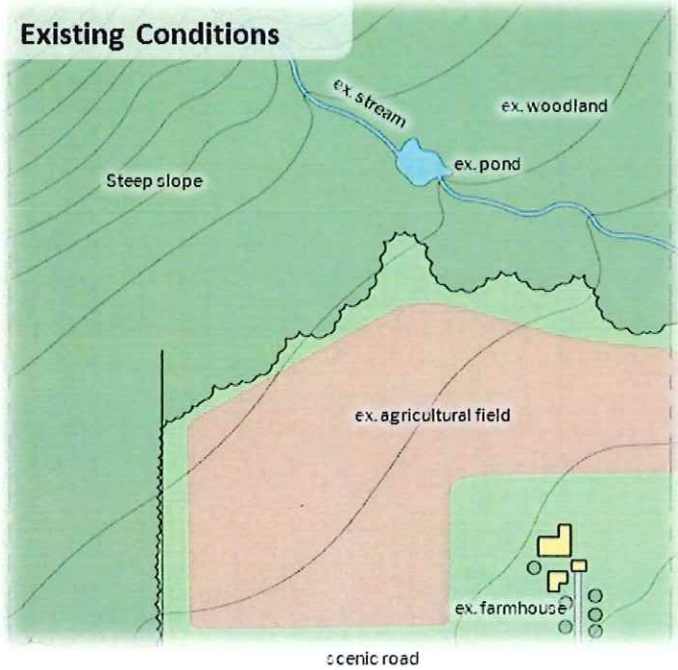
Techniques to apply Figure 1 design principles are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Site Design Process Principles and Techniques**

<b>Conservation Design Principles</b>	<b>Select Design Techniques</b>
<p><b>Development Design that Minimizes the Generation of Stormwater Runoff: Achieved by Designing to the Land &amp; Optimizing the Cumulative Benefits of the Site’s Natural Hydrologic Features</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the natural soil structure and vegetative cover that are often critical components of maintaining the hydrologic functions of natural infiltration, bioretention, flow attenuation, evapotranspiration, and pollutant removal. Strive to achieve multiple stormwater objectives (i.e., maintain hydrologic regime including both peak rate and total volume control, water quality control, and temperature control).</li> <li>• Protect, or improve, natural resources to reduce the needs for environmental mitigation, future environmental restoration, and cumulative flow and water quality impacts of unnecessary disturbances within the watershed system.</li> <li>• Minimize the disturbance of natural surface and groundwater drainage features and patterns, discharge points and flow characteristics, natural infiltration and evapotranspiration patterns and characteristics, natural stream channel stability, and floodplain conveyance, etc.</li> <li>• Minimize the size of individual impervious surfaces.</li> <li>• Separate large impervious surfaces into smaller components.</li> <li>• Avoid unnecessary impervious surfaces.</li> <li>• Utilize porous materials where suited in lieu of impervious materials.</li> <li>• Prioritize on-site hydrologic features (i.e., for protection, improvement, utilization, or alteration) and natural site drainage patterns and infiltration characteristics and consider them for the cornerstones of the conceptual site design. Prevent rather than minimize.</li> <li>• Reduce grading and compaction by applying selective grading design methods to provide final grading patterns that preserve existing topography where it most benefits natural hydrologic functions and where needed; this results in graded areas that evenly distribute runoff and minimize concentrated runoff flows.</li> <li>• Consider the scale and placement of buildings and other infrastructure to minimize impact to natural hydrologic features.</li> <li>• Incorporate unique natural, scenic, and historic site features into the configuration of the development, and ensure flexibility in development design to meet community needs for complementary and aesthetically pleasing development.</li> </ul>

<b>Conservation Design Principles</b>	<b>Select Design Techniques</b>
<b>Managing Stormwater as Close to the Point of Generation as Possible using Distributed LID Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate natural hydrologic features that have been selected for their available capacity and function into the overall system of site runoff controls (protect their hydrologic and natural ecosystem functions without directing additional stormwater to them).</li> <li>• Disconnect runoff from one impervious surface to another.</li> <li>• Incorporate LID (or similar) green infrastructure and distribute storm flows to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce runoff;</li> <li>○ Manage stormwater at or as close to the point of generation as possible;</li> <li>○ Disconnect discharges from streets and municipal storm sewer systems; and</li> <li>○ Select and design BMPs to give first priority to nonstructural and vegetated (landscape-based) BMPs, second priority to surface structural BMPs, third priority to subsurface structural BMPs, and design subsurface BMPs as shallow as possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Open Channel Conveyance (as needed)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convey concentrated flows by means of innovative pervious vegetated channels rather than piped systems</li> <li>• Provide open channel conveyance, as needed, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Treat water quality;</li> <li>○ Reduce runoff velocity; and</li> <li>○ Promote infiltration and evapotranspiration of runoff.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Management in Common Open Space (or as conveyed to other green infrastructure practices)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rely on natural processes within the soil mantle and the plant community to the maximum extent practicable.</li> <li>• Manage remaining conveyed stormwater from small storms in common open space areas to achieve multiple objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disperse storm flows and reduce velocity;</li> <li>○ Treat water quality; and</li> <li>○ Promote infiltration and evapotranspiration of runoff.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide for appropriate conveyance to retention or detention storage facilities as needed for flows from large storm events (as needed).</li> <li>• Maintain open space functions consistent with common area uses (passive recreation, on-site sewage management, scenic vistas, etc). Management practices should be integrated into the natural environment and be site amenities.</li> </ul>

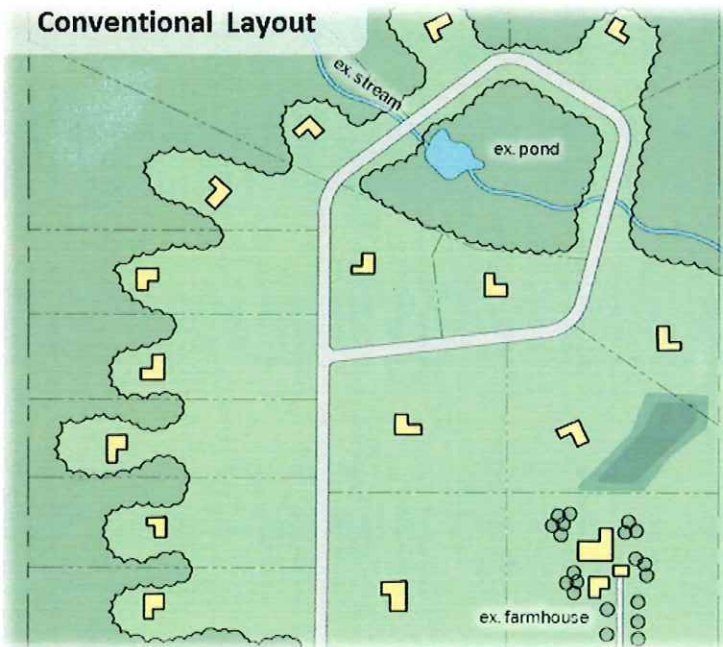
The concepts presented in Figures 1 and 2, and further described in Table 1, are graphically presented below in Figures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6.



**60**  
Total acres of site

**38**  
Existing acres of woodland

*Figure 3.1: Existing conditions on a 60-acre, majority wooded parcel*



- No accommodation for connections to future development
- Clearing and building in riparian and floodplain areas
- Wide streets throughout
- Conventional stormwater facilities
- Natural areas significantly disturbed
- Site layout not designed to fit terrain resulting in excessive grading

**16**

Total single-family lots

**15**

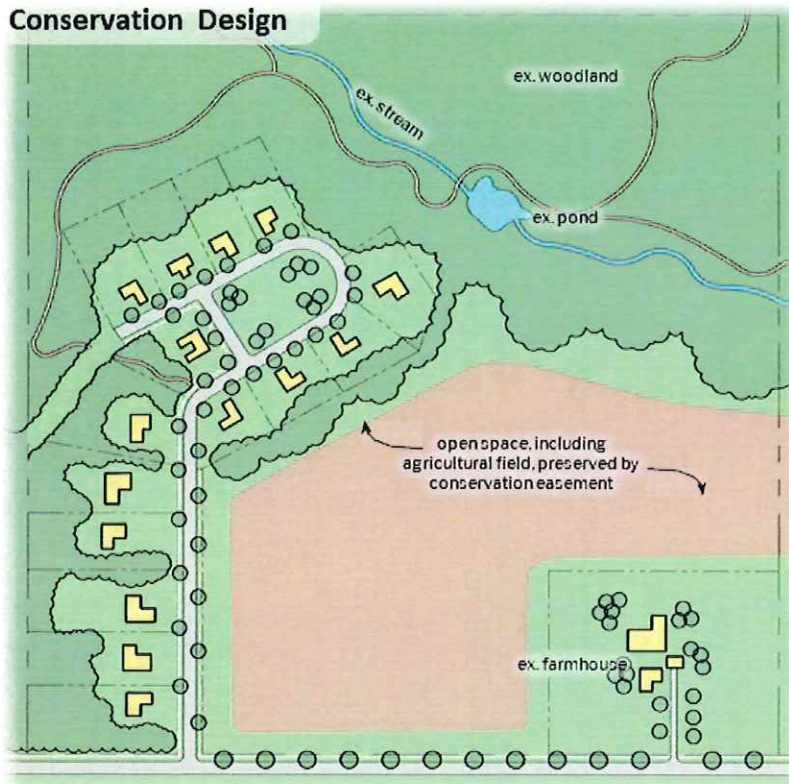
Acres of remaining woodlands

**0**

Acres of open space

*Figure 3.2: Example of how the above parcel may be developed using conventional layout methods*

## Conservation Design



**60**

Total acres of site

**16**

Total single-family lots

**32**

Total acres of remaining woodlands

**48**

Total acres of open space (80%)

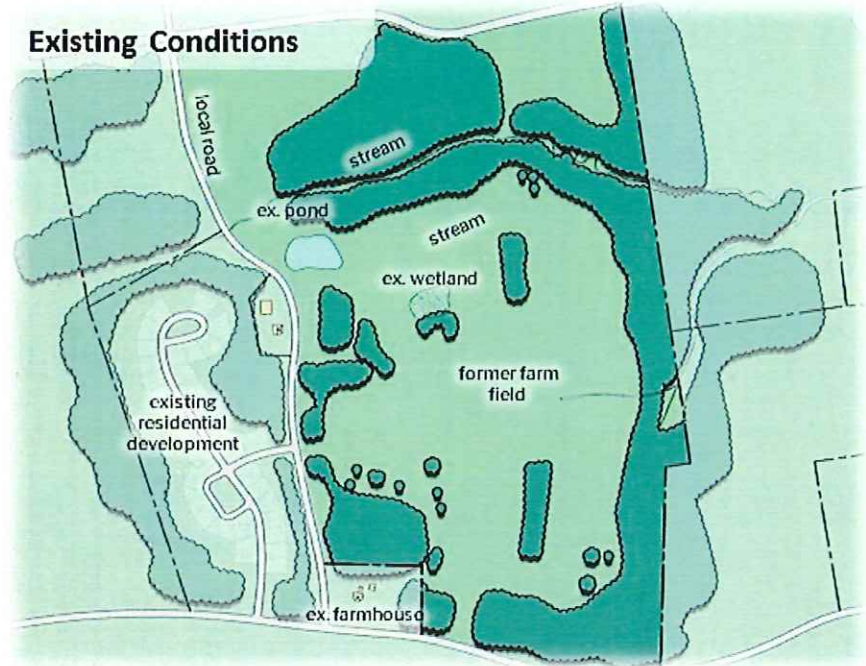
- Houses line new road, with all lots adjacent to protected open space
- Trail system
- New road leaves existing stone wall and can connect to future development on adjacent property
- Spatial characteristics of existing farmstead maintained
- Reduced lot size (0.75 acres)

✓ RECOMMENDED

- **Provides open space linkages with adjacent parcels.** Maintain contiguous open space
- **Minimizes grading: Design to the site** Minimum disturbance, minimum maintenance
- **Preserves water budget and natural infiltration** Narrow roads, smaller lots
- **Reduces need for traditional structural stormwater management facilities** Incorporate the use of green infrastructure
- **Maintains natural drainage patterns**

**Figure 3.3: Example of a single-family development on the same parcel using the principles of Conservation Design and Low Impact Development**



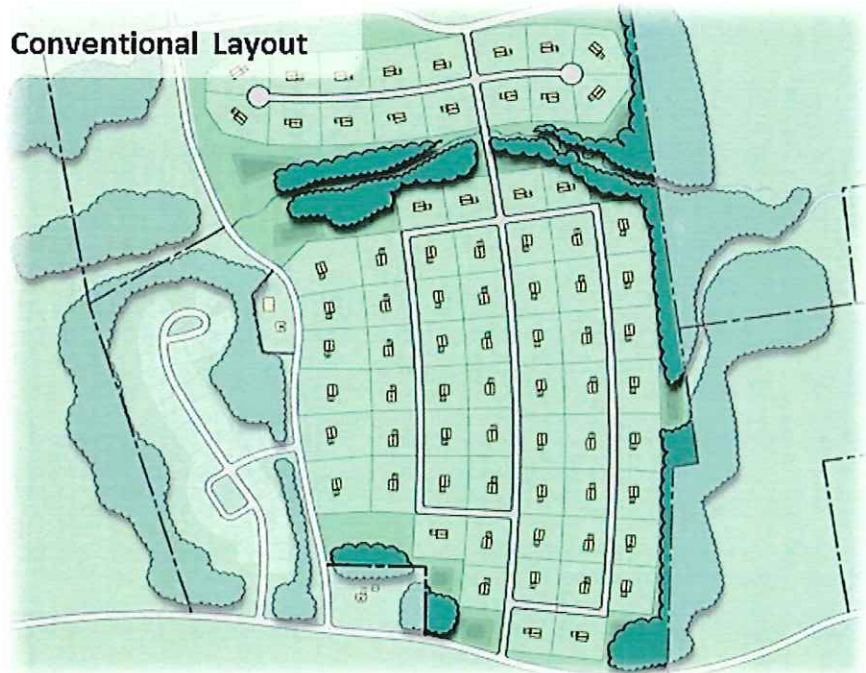


**89**

Total acres of site

**33**

Existing acres of woodland



- Large cul-de-sacs
- Clearing and building in riparian corridors
- Wide streets throughout
- Conventional stormwater facilities
- Natural areas significantly disturbed
- Site layout not designed to fit terrain resulting in excessive grading

**73**

Total single-family lots

**8**

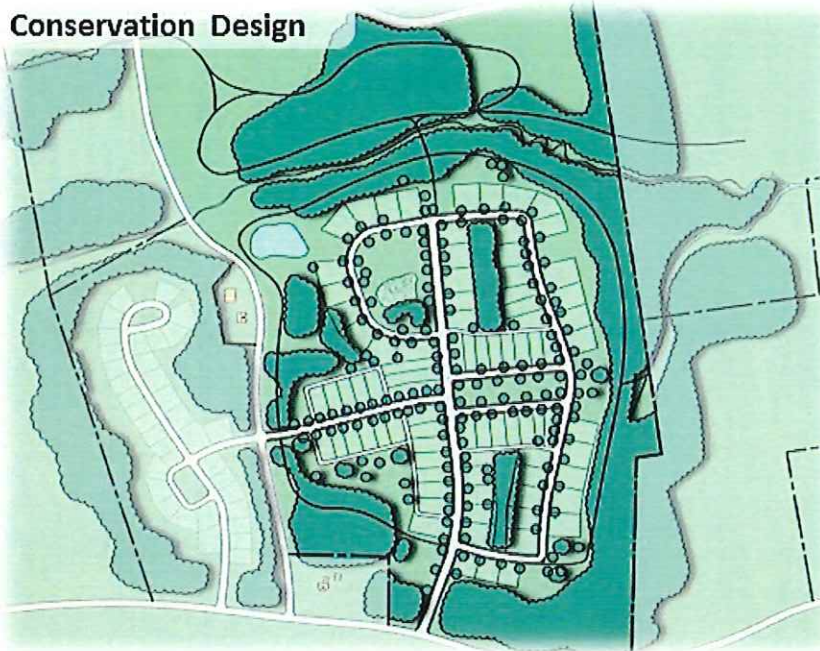
Acres of remaining woodlands

**27**

Acres of open space (30%)

*Figure 3.4: Example of how a larger parcel with a mix of open meadows, woodlands, scattered fence rows, and stream corridors may be developed using conventional layout methods. Lot sizes are approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre.*

### Conservation Design



**85**

Total Single Family Homes

**33**

Acres of remaining woodlands

**67**

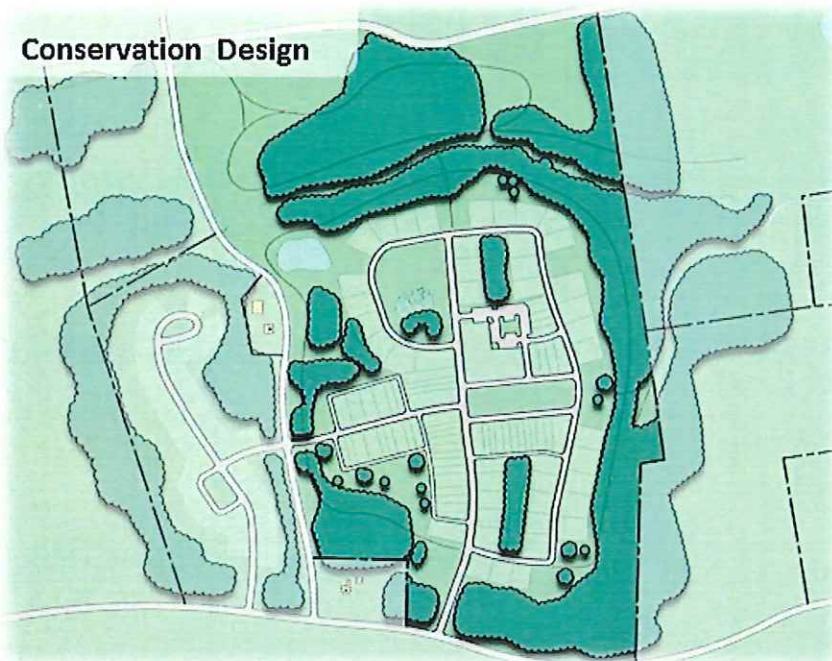
Acres of open space (75%)

### Conservation Design



- Provides open space linkages with adjacent parcels
- Designed to the site to minimize grading
- Narrower roads and smaller lots to reduce impervious cover
- Maintains natural drainage patterns
- Preserves natural features and habitat
- Community commons and green space
- Trail systems
- Characteristic of site preserved as viewed from adjoining roads

*Figure 3.5: Example of single-family development on the same parcel using the principles of Conservation Design and Low Impact Development. Lot sizes are approximately ¼ of an acre.*



**96**

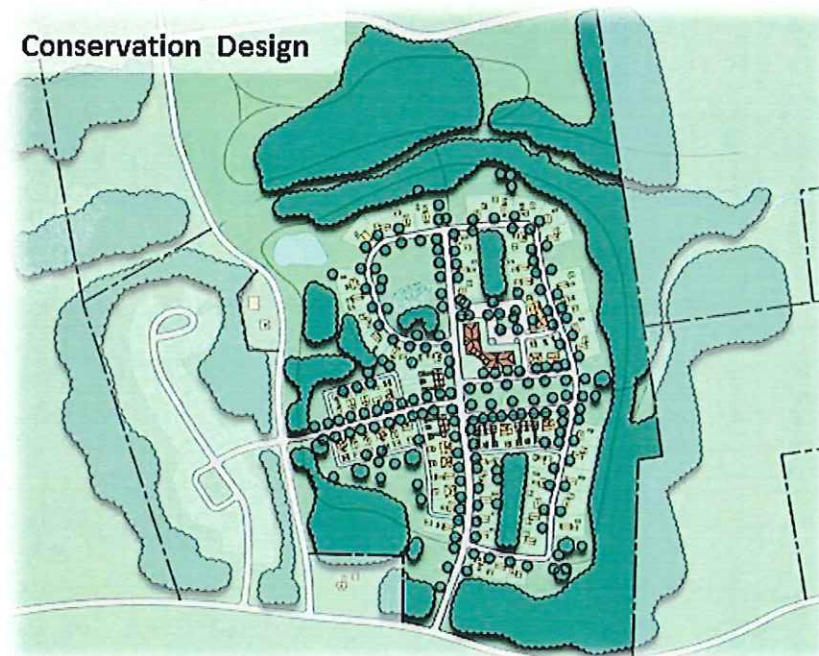
Total lots, 110 units

**33**

Acres of remaining woodlands

**67**

Acres of open space (75%)



- Provides open space linkages with adjacent parcels
- Designed to the site to minimize grading
- Narrower roads and smaller lots to reduce impervious cover
- Maintains natural drainage patterns
- Preserves natural features and habitat
- Community commons and green space
- Trail systems
- Characteristic of site preserved as viewed from adjoining roads

Note: While the Conservation Design graphics shown above optimize unit types and lot sizes (and thus allow greater density), it is recognized that this type of mixed use may not be appropriate in some zoning districts. However, Conservation Design works equally well where housing diversity is not appropriate.

**Figure 3.6: Example of higher density mixed use site design on the same parcel using the principles of Conservation Design and Low Impact Development.**

## **DESIGN PROCESS**

The first step in applying CD is to identify, delineate and assess the functions of all existing natural resources and natural and constructed hydrologic features that: are located within the project site; will receive discharge from the project site; or may be impacted by runoff or disturbance from the proposed land development project. These include:

- Streams, waterways, springs, wetlands, vernal pools, and water bodies;
- Drainage patterns, conveyances, and discharge points;
- Natural infiltration areas and patterns;
- Areas of natural vegetation or woodlands that provide significant evapotranspiration, pollutant removal, bank stabilization, flow attenuation, or riparian buffer functions;
- Floodplains; and
- Other features that contribute to the overall hydrologic function and value of the site and its receiving streams.

Once this inventory and assessment are completed, these identified resources and features are then prioritized for their ability to provide hydrologic function and performance for managing runoff from the proposed site improvements. Specifically, they should be prioritized as follows:

- Those to be incorporated into the site design in a manner that provides for their protection from any disturbance or impact from the proposed land development;
- Those to be protected from further disturbance or impact and for which the proposed land development will provide improvement to existing conditions;
- Those that can be incorporated into and utilized as components of the overall site design in a manner that protects or improves their existing conditions while utilizing their hydrologic function (i.e., for infiltration, evapotranspiration, or reducing pollutant loads, runoff volume or peak discharge rates, etc.) to reduce the need for or size of constructed BMPs; and
- Those that may be considered for alteration, disturbance, or removal.

These prioritizations are then applied as the basis on which to begin the site design lay-out, grading, construction, and permanent ground cover designs to achieve the CD Principles outlined above.

### **Evaluating a Site Using Conservation Design Principles**

The following is a suggested series of steps that landowners, developers, and municipalities can take to achieve CD goals and work together in a more effective manner. While this approach places significant emphasis on the initial phases of project design, it will strengthen support for the plan and substantially reduce the time needed for preliminary and final plan review and approval.

As stated above, the sketch plan process encouraged herein cannot be mandated by municipalities in Pennsylvania under Act 247 (Municipalities Planning Code) unless requirements for either the preliminary plan or final plan are waived. Some municipalities are doing just this by requiring sketch plans and preliminary/final plan submissions while others

“strongly encourage” sketch plans in their subdivision/land development ordinances. The Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) reviews sketch plans at no charge and highly recommends their use. Additional information on sketch plans can be found in the Chester County Planning Commission’s “Sketch Plan” eTool. Whichever approach is taken, sketch plans can be of tremendous value to the community and developer alike; in particular, sketch plans offer developers the opportunity to get municipal feedback on design prior to investing large sums in engineering design.

### ***1. Determine Development Goals***

- Define what is driving the decision to develop the property.
- Consider the site context – regional, local and site characteristics of land ownership, visual patterns, cultural patterns, roadways, vegetation, wildlife habitat, topography, etc. Consider possibilities for linking other landscapes, stream corridors, critical farmland and distinctive woodland patterns; identify or establish wildlife or recreational trail corridors, etc. Consider the natural hydrology of the site – how water flows over the land (the natural drainage patterns), where vegetation intercepts water, etc.

Note: Further consideration of these issues is suggested after a resource inventory and site analysis are performed.

- Clearly define the goals to work towards – these are the design goals for the project. Goals could be economic and/or personal/family related, as well as visual, ecological, agricultural, historical, and educational.
- Consider the project’s time schedule and that of the municipal review process.

### ***2. Conduct an Inventory of Existing Resources - Examine the Natural/Scenic/Historic Resources and Land Use Patterns***

- Determine the site context (defined above)
- Evaluate current and past land use (agriculture, wooded lot, vacant, brownfield, etc.)
- Assess wind patterns and micro-climate
- Delineate steep slopes and general topography
- Identify existing vegetative cover conditions according to general cover type, and label specimen trees and the canopy line of existing woodlands.
- Map hydrologic features and drainage patterns (wetlands, floodplains, streams, drainage swales, etc.)
- Identify scenic viewsheds (interior and exterior)

- Consider potential historic and cultural resources
- Assess soil patterns (hydric soils, prime agricultural soils, infiltration-capable soils, etc.) and vegetation patterns (landscape texture and patterns)
- Consider local zoning regulations
- Review the site for obvious land fragmentation (agricultural, natural habitat, human use, viewsheds)
- Determine the presence of endangered/threatened species and unusual habitats, critical natural areas, etc.

Other design considerations include solar exposure (seasonal changes), light patterns (shadows), sense of space (enclosed, open, mysterious) and sense of scale.

### ***3. Undertake a Site Analysis***

- Compare/overlay/combine the natural/scenic/historic resource and land use pattern information to create a general understanding of the site's opportunities and constraints, particularly as they relate to the design goals. Some initial constraints could present opportunities. Particular emphasis should be placed on site contours and existing site hydrology, e.g., drainage patterns, infiltration capability of soils, etc.
- Prepare a site analysis map that outlines the most important opportunities and constraints. The site analysis should identify both the traditionally unbuildable areas (wet, flood-prone, or steep) and the most outstanding aspects of the remaining land (such as scenic vistas, natural meadows, hedgerows, mature woodlands, historic buildings or other structures, stone walls, etc.). It is important to note that CD places significant emphasis on soils (particularly the manner in which water moves across and through them). Disturbance of soils, disturbance of vegetation, and compaction all affect the ability of a site to manage stormwater. For example, while it is imperative that good draining soils be preserved to the maximum extent possible, areas of poor permeability that contain robust vegetation may function quite satisfactorily (a well-developed root zone in conjunction with established vegetation can significantly improve poor soil infiltration and permeability). Conversely, even good soils, if substantially disturbed and compacted, can become far less permeable.

Note: Although reliance on published soils data is acceptable for site analyses and conceptual planning purposes, detailed planning must include soil field sampling.

### ***4. Create Conceptual Designs or Sketch Plans***

- Use the site analysis to create conceptual designs. Consider the principles and objectives of Conservation Design as the basis for initially conceptualizing layouts (Note: some

municipalities will have a similar design process codified in their subdivision and land development ordinance referred to as the 4-step design process). List opportunities and constraints of each design element. This component involves four steps:

- i) **Delineate conservation areas (based on the findings of the site analysis) and potential development areas.** Designing to the site, rather than grading to achieve a standardized product, is preferable because it accomplishes the goals of minimum disturbance/minimum maintenance (i.e., respecting the site's natural hydrology, minimizing grading and earth disturbance, etc.); such an approach can also substantially reduce construction costs. Additional emphasis should be given to the site's existing hydrology, such as drainage patterns, the location of natural swales and conveyances, and the infiltration capability of soils.

This step requires careful integration of stormwater management and CD concepts into the design of the site. Engineering stormwater solutions after a design has been selected fails to consider a key component of CD, i.e., design as an integral best management practice. For example, it is better to prevent runoff than to attempt to mitigate it once it is created. Approaches to the site design that can reduce the generation of stormwater from the outset are the most effective approach to stormwater management.

- ii) **Locate desired/permitted structures (housing units, buildings, etc.) on the property (as they relate to Step 1 and the design goals).** Again, Conservation Design principles should be carefully considered here. Will compact development allow for a reduction in road length? Is it possible to interconnect open space, thus permitting stormwater management close to the source of generation and creating biodiversity corridors, etc. (multiple objectives)? Can structures be located so that a majority back or front to open space?
- iii) **Connect buildings or house sites with streets (logical alignment) and trails (where appropriate).** Consider ways to reduce impervious cover (one-way streets where appropriate, planted islands in cul-de-sacs, etc.).
- iv) **Draw in lot lines for the house sites or buildings, where needed.**

- Meet with municipal officials and review plans -- what is liked, not liked, and why.
- Identify a direction for engineering and final design.

#### **5. *Formulate A Final Design (or Sketch Plan) as the Basis for an Engineered Site Plan***

- Synthesize discussion of conceptual designs (sketch plans) and finalize design.
- Develop legal instruments necessary to realize plan objectives, e.g., conservation easements, deed restrictions, homeowners association, estate planning, etc. (Note: these concepts are considered throughout the design process).

## 6. *Obtain Approvals (Follow-up)*

- Obtain municipal and County buy-in of master sketch plan, and
- Proceed to Final Engineered Plan approvals.

## **DESIGN PRACTICES**

Numerous practices and strategies can be considered where their aim is to sustain and utilize the benefits of existing site hydrology and minimize the generation of new stormwater runoff. Careful consideration of site topography and implementation of a combination of the design practices described herein may reduce the cost associated with implementing stormwater control measures. Following are brief descriptions of various practices that can be used to achieve the principles of CD and LID.

### **Site Layout Practices**

The following site layout practices are but a few of the methods by which CD and LID can be implemented. Although municipal codes can reflect such practices, they are less functions of regimented codes and procedures than about understanding and recognizing the benefits and values that existing resources can contribute to the desired outcomes of the land development project. In many circumstances, communication among design engineers, land planning and environmental professionals, knowledgeable developers, community representatives, and regulatory authorities can promote a beneficial collective understanding about the most effective path forward to achieve optimum planning outcomes.

***Preserving Natural Drainage Features.*** Protecting natural drainage features, particularly vegetated drainage swales and channels, is desirable because of their ability to infiltrate and attenuate flows and to filter pollutants. Unfortunately, some common land development practices encourage just the opposite pattern -- streets and adjacent storm sewers typically are located in the natural headwater valleys and swales, thereby replacing natural drainage functions with an impervious system. As a result, runoff and pollutants generated from impervious surfaces flow directly into storm sewers with no opportunity for attenuation, infiltration, or filtration. Designing developments to fit site topography retains much of the natural drainage function. In addition, designing with the land minimizes the amount of site grading, reduces the amount of compaction that can alter site infiltration characteristics, and can result in cost savings to the developer.

***Protecting Natural Depression Storage Areas.*** Depressional storage areas have no surface outlet or drain very slowly following a storm event. They can be commonly seen as ponded areas in fields during the wet season or after large storm events. Some development practices eliminate these depressions by filling or draining, thereby eliminating their ability to reduce surface runoff volumes and trap pollutants. The volume and release-rate characteristics of depressions should be protected in the design of the development site to assist in reducing runoff volumes and reducing runoff rates. Designing around the depression or incorporating its storage as additional capacity in required detention facilities, treats this area as a site amenity rather than a detriment.



***Avoiding Introduction of Impervious Areas.*** Reduction of impervious cover is one of the greatest benefits of CD. The combined benefits of setting aside more than half of the buildable land as open space, coupled with the resulting shorter road lengths, result in less impervious cover and less compacted soil. Building footprints, sidewalks, driveways, and other features producing impervious surfaces should be evaluated to minimize impacts on runoff. Designing a site to reduce the overall length and area of roads not only reduces total impervious cover, but also lowers municipal road maintenance and snow removal costs. **In many instances, municipalities have the ability to reduce impervious cover by providing incentives or opportunities in their zoning and subdivision/ land development ordinances to reduce road width, reduce or modify cul-de-sac dimensions, reduce or modify curbing requirements, and reduce or modify sidewalk requirements.** For example, curbing contributes to impervious cover and channels storm flows to inlets, thus further concentrating runoff. An alternative is to consider bioswales and/or infiltration trenches that can treat and attenuate flows coming off roadways. Where curbs are desirable, simply providing curb breaks or openings of 6-12 inches every 2-4 feet can disconnect flows and reduce concentration of runoff. Cul-de-sacs can be replaced with “hammerheads” or be designed with planted islands to reduce impervious cover (both of which can be designed to allow sufficient turning radius for emergency vehicles). In fact, planted islands in cul-de-sacs can be designed to intercept road runoff and contribute to infiltration.

***Disconnecting Impervious Surfaces.*** Impervious surfaces are significantly less of a problem if they are not directly connected to an impervious conveyance system (such as storm sewer). Two basic ways to reduce hydraulic connectivity are routing roof runoff over lawns and reducing the use of storm sewers. Site grading should promote increasing travel time of stormwater runoff from these sources and should help reduce concentration of runoff to a single point within the project site. Along roadways, where feasible, low velocity runoff (i.e., 1-to-2-year storms) can be infiltrated in grass swales.

***Routing Roof Runoff Over Lawns.*** Roof runoff can be easily routed over lawns in most site designs. The practice discourages direct connections of downspouts to “driveway-to-street-to-storm sewers” or parking lots. The practice also discourages sloping driveways and parking lots to the street. Crowning the driveway, to run off to the lawn, uses the lawn as a filter strip.

***Reducing Street Widths.*** Street widths can be reduced by either eliminating on-street parking (where conditions warrant) and/or by designing roads to meet actual demand. Designers should consult with municipal officials and staff to select the narrowest practical street width for the design conditions (speed, curvature, housing density, need for on-street parking, etc.). For example, permitting one-way streets for small loop roads can reduce overall road width. Reduced street widths also can lower maintenance needs and costs. Municipalities should review their ordinances to ensure that their street requirements are not over or under designed. Although there are some situations, such as with higher density development, where on-street parking may be needed, the amount of on-street parking, and hence overall street width, should be gaged to need. For further information, see the Multi-modal Circulation Handbook prepared by the CCPC (or consult other smart street publications). Narrower neighborhood streets should be considered and encouraged under select conditions.

***Reducing or Modifying Sidewalk Requirements.*** A sidewalk on one side of the street may suffice

in low-traffic neighborhoods. The lost sidewalk could be replaced with bicycle/recreational trails that follow back-of-lot lines as an alternative to reduced sidewalks, where appropriate. Where used, consideration should be given to constructing trails with pervious materials.

***Reducing or Modifying Parking Requirements.*** Parking standards, particularly for nonresidential development, can be excessive. Reducing spaces to match actual demand makes sense and can significantly reduce impervious cover. In addition to or in lieu of reductions, alternatives such as shared or reserve parking should be considered. Where appropriate, stall size should also be considered and modified as needed.

***Reducing Building Setbacks.*** Reducing building setbacks (from streets) reduces the size of impervious areas of driveways and entry walks and is most readily accomplished along low-traffic streets where traffic noise is not a problem.

***Minimum Disturbance/ Minimum Maintenance.*** Reducing site disturbance and grading can go a long way towards reducing runoff. Sensitive site design conducive to the natural features of the site, including natural site contours, can reduce the amount of land disturbed during actual development. Often referred to as “fingerprinting,” this approach identifies the limits of disturbance, which are flagged in the field. As is often the case, development sites need some grading in order to achieve development objectives. In these cases, there are often opportunities to make grading part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. Careful grading can capitalize on natural site functions to achieve stormwater management objectives. For example, grading that does occur can be incorporated into terracing or berming near existing vegetation to aid in infiltration, stormwater management and pollutant filtering.

***Constructing Compact Developments using Conservation Design Principles:*** Lower impact, compact CD can reduce the amount of impervious area for a given number of lots. Reductions in overall infrastructure, including reduced street length, width, curbing, and parking, among others, can contribute to a reduction in development and long-term maintenance costs. Reduced site disturbance and preservation of open space help buffer sensitive natural areas and retain more of a site’s natural hydrology. Development can be designed so that areas of high infiltration soils are reserved as stormwater infiltration areas. Construction activity can be focused onto less sensitive areas without affecting the gross density of development. One impediment to the use of smaller lots is where lot area impervious cover standards (as opposed to total impervious cover standards) make it difficult to locate houses, driveways, pools, septic, etc., on small lots. Where this issue arises, municipalities may want to consider reductions in, or waivers to, lot area impervious cover standards where it can be shown that total impervious cover standards can be met and a stormwater management report indicates that the coverage proposed can be managed appropriately on the site.

### **LID Practices and Stormwater Control Measures**

Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) are intended to supplement natural hydrology site design techniques where needed. Structural in nature, such practices include bioretention facilities, rain gardens, swales, and other engineered stormwater BMPs. Listed here are techniques intended to help manage stormwater predominantly at or near the source, rather than traditional techniques that largely release runoff over an extended period of time to adjacent properties and streams. This list, in no way exhaustive, gives examples of a few of the most common practices. It should be noted that LID aims to mimic the predevelopment site hydrology by using site design techniques

that store, infiltrate, evaporate, and detain runoff. Use of these techniques helps to reduce off-site runoff and ensure adequate groundwater recharge. Since every aspect of site development affects the hydrologic response of a site, LID control techniques focus mainly on site hydrology. LID strives to conserve existing site resources, minimize site impacts, maintain (and even extend) the time of concentration of runoff, utilize distributed management practices, and prevent pollution.

***Bioretention.*** This type of BMP combines open space with stormwater treatment. Soil and plants, rather than sand filters, treat and store runoff. Infiltration and evapotranspiration are achieved, often coupled with an underdrain to collect water not infiltrated or used in the root zone.

***Rain Gardens.*** Typically, rain gardens are shallow depression areas containing a mix of water tolerant native plant species. The intent is to capture runoff for storage and use in the root zone of plants. Intended largely as a way of managing stormwater through evapotranspiration (ET), rain gardens often function as infiltration facilities as well.

***Vegetated Open Channel Conveyances.*** By reducing the use of storm sewers to drain streets, parking lots, and back yards, the potential for accelerating runoff from development can be greatly reduced. This practice requires greater use of natural or vegetated drainage swales and may not be practical for some development sites, especially if there are concerns for areas that do not drain in a “reasonable” time. The practice requires educating local citizens, who may expect runoff to disappear shortly after a rainfall event.

***Permeable Paving Materials.*** These materials include permeable interlocking concrete paving blocks or porous bituminous concrete, among others. Such materials should be considered as alternatives to conventional pavement surfaces, especially for low use surfaces such as driveways, overflow parking lots, and emergency access roads. Surfaces for which seal coats may be applied should refrain from using permeable paving materials. Note: ongoing maintenance is required for some surfaces to minimize potential for clogging.

Residents and municipal officials of communities that utilize LID and other green technology practices often need to be informed of the benefits of such facilities. LID practices can offer enhanced stormwater control in a more naturalized setting, reduce maintenance needs and costs, provide more attractive management options, and provide opportunities for wildlife habitat. Descriptions of the benefits of such practices should be included in homeowners association documents (and conveyed to homeowners in other ways) and signage should be used to convey helpful information about the function and value of such practices.

## **BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION DESIGN**

Studies over the past 25 years have shown that development planned according to CD principles yields significant benefits to homeowners, developers, municipalities, and local communities. Homeowners see tremendous value in the preservation of open space and the protection of natural features, even if it does not exist on their lots (National Association of Home Builders, 1991; DVRPC, 2011). Developers experience reduced construction costs and enjoy the improved marketability. Municipalities see a reduced demand for new municipal parks and receive additional revenue from improved property values. Areas preserved as open space allow for passive and active recreational opportunities and help to preserve the unique character of the site. Common

open spaces also help to foster social cohesion by providing residents with opportunities to get outside and interact with neighbors without having to drive. Ultimately, communities designed using CD planning principles are more desirable places to live, work, and play.

Given the improved sense of place and community, dollar appreciation of conservation subdivisions outpaces conventional development by upwards of 12% (The Conservation Fund, 2001). In Indiana, the use of conservation subdivision design added \$20,000 in worth to each lot without decreasing the total number of lots (ConservationTools.org). Even more compact development (quarter-acre lots) sells for more than half-acre and larger lots where open space exists. Over a 20-year period, the conservation development homes built on quarter-acre lots sold for an average \$17,000 more than their counterparts built on half-acre lots (Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, 2003). Analyses completed as a part of Chester County's *Return on Environment* report note that in Chester County, average property values have increased by more than \$11,000 per lot for those homes located near open space (*Return on Environment*, Chester County, 2019). Furthermore, this same report identifies the reduced need for stormwater infrastructure as a major cost savings for conservation design subdivisions.

Developers see value through reduced development costs and increased unit values. In Texas, respect for the natural terrain and existing resources allowed the developer of an 80-lot development to reduce grading costs by 83% (\$250,000) compared to a conventionally-engineered plan (Growing Greening, ConservationTools.org). CD subdivisions typically cost upwards of \$7,400 less per lot to build (Environmental Law and Policy Center, 2011). Examples of cost savings to developers include:

- Reduced Site preparation costs
  - Elimination of mass re-grading
  - Decrease in erosion and sediment control measures
- Reduced Infrastructure costs
  - Reduced need for storm water basins
  - Reduced roadway lengths
  - Reduced drainage pipe installations
- Increased value of units
  - Located adjacent to open space
  - Positioned to coexist with natural resource areas

Conventional development places tremendous burdens on infrastructure and typically does not pay for itself in services provided. CD and compact development reduce the costs of infrastructure and construction, preserve open space, increase the inherent value of units over conventional development, pose greater opportunities for cost efficient housing, and offer greater protection to the environment and our waterways. And while costs to develop go down, value to homeowners and municipalities goes up.

It should also be noted that there is a distinct climate benefit to be gained from the principles of conservation design, among them: providing open land for stormwater infiltration, landscape

restoration, wildlife habitat, heat mitigation, and storm resilience, among others. The tools and techniques described herein offer important techniques by which to implement climate action plans published at the local, county and state levels (see also Chester County's Climate Action Plan and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan).

## **CONCLUSION**

The use of Conservation Design (CD), Low Impact Development (LID), and green infrastructure offers municipalities and developers opportunities to protect and enhance the hydrology of development sites, as well as address other environmental and social issues related to development. In conclusion, development designed using these principles results in a more desirable place to live.

As noted above, land development sites can be evaluated through a consensus-driven stakeholder process that seeks to determine development goals, conduct a resource inventory, undertake a site analysis, create conceptual designs (sketch plans), formulate final designs, and obtain government buy-in and approval. Flexibility by all parties allows each site to be evaluated for its unique resources and potential. Solutions emerge from early and on-going engagement among all stakeholders in a project.

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## ORDINANCE APPENDIX C

### RUNOFF COEFFICIENTS AND CURVE NUMBERS

**TABLE C-1. RUNOFF CURVE NUMBERS**

*Source:* Table 2-2a, Table 2-2b, and Table 2-2c from U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, June 1986, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds, Technical Release No. 55 (TR-55), Second Edition.

**TABLE C-2. RATIONAL RUNOFF COEFFICIENTS**

*Source:* Table F.2 from Delaware County Planning Department, December 2011, Crum Creek Watershed Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.

**TABLE C-3. MANNING'S 'n' VALUES**

*Source:* Table 3-1 from United States Army Corps of Engineers, January 2010, HEC-RAS River Analysis System, Hydraulic Reference Manual, Version 4.1.

**TABLE C-1. RUNOFF CURVE NUMBERS**

(3 pages)

*Source:* Table 2-2a, Table 2-2b, and Table 2-2c from U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, June 1986, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds, Technical Release No. 55 (TR-55), Second Edition.



**Table 2-2a** Runoff curve numbers for urban areas <sup>1/</sup>

Cover description	Average percent impervious area <sup>2/</sup>	Curve numbers for hydrologic soil group			
		A	B	C	D
<i>Fully developed urban areas (vegetation established)</i>					
Open space (lawns, parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.) <sup>3/</sup> :					
Poor condition (grass cover < 50%) .....		68	79	86	89
Fair condition (grass cover 50% to 75%) .....		49	69	79	84
Good condition (grass cover > 75%) .....		39	61	74	80
Impervious areas:					
Paved parking lots, roofs, driveways, etc. (excluding right-of-way) .....		98	98	98	98
Streets and roads:					
Paved; curbs and storm sewers (excluding right-of-way) .....		98	98	98	98
Paved; open ditches (including right-of-way) .....		83	89	92	93
Gravel (including right-of-way) .....		76	85	89	91
Dirt (including right-of-way) .....		72	82	87	89
Western desert urban areas:					
Natural desert landscaping (pervious areas only) <sup>4/</sup> .....		63	77	85	88
Artificial desert landscaping (impervious weed barrier, desert shrub with 1- to 2-inch sand or gravel mulch and basin borders) .....		96	96	96	96
Urban districts:					
Commercial and business .....	85	89	92	94	95
Industrial .....	72	81	88	91	93
Residential districts by average lot size:					
1/8 acre or less (town houses) .....	65	77	85	90	92
1/4 acre .....	38	61	75	83	87
1/3 acre .....	30	57	72	81	86
1/2 acre .....	25	54	70	80	85
1 acre .....	20	51	68	79	84
2 acres .....	12	46	65	77	82
<i>Developing urban areas</i>					
Newly graded areas (pervious areas only, no vegetation) <sup>5/</sup> .....					
		77	86	91	94
Idle lands (CN's are determined using cover types similar to those in table 2-2c).					

<sup>1</sup> Average runoff condition, and  $I_a = 0.2S$ .<sup>2</sup> The average percent impervious area shown was used to develop the composite CN's. Other assumptions are as follows: impervious areas are directly connected to the drainage system, impervious areas have a CN of 98, and pervious areas are considered equivalent to open space in good hydrologic condition. CN's for other combinations of conditions may be computed using figure 2-3 or 2-4.<sup>3</sup> CN's shown are equivalent to those of pasture. Composite CN's may be computed for other combinations of open space cover type.<sup>4</sup> Composite CN's for natural desert landscaping should be computed using figures 2-3 or 2-4 based on the impervious area percentage (CN = 98) and the pervious area CN. The pervious area CN's are assumed equivalent to desert shrub in poor hydrologic condition.<sup>5</sup> Composite CN's to use for the design of temporary measures during grading and construction should be computed using figure 2-3 or 2-4 based on the degree of development (impervious area percentage) and the CN's for the newly graded pervious areas.

**Table 2-2b** Runoff curve numbers for cultivated agricultural lands <sup>1/</sup>

Cover description			Curve numbers for hydrologic soil group			
Cover type	Treatment <sup>2/</sup>	Hydrologic condition <sup>3/</sup>	A	B	C	D
Fallow	Bare soil	—	77	86	91	94
	Crop residue cover (CR)	Poor	76	85	90	93
		Good	74	83	88	90
Row crops	Straight row (SR)	Poor	72	81	88	91
		Good	67	78	85	89
	SR + CR	Poor	71	80	87	90
		Good	64	75	82	85
	Contoured (C)	Poor	70	79	84	88
		Good	65	75	82	86
	C + CR	Poor	69	78	83	87
		Good	64	74	81	85
	Contoured & terraced (C&T)	Poor	66	74	80	82
		Good	62	71	78	81
	C&T+ CR	Poor	65	73	79	81
		Good	61	70	77	80
Small grain	SR	Poor	65	76	84	88
		Good	63	75	83	87
	SR + CR	Poor	64	75	83	86
		Good	60	72	80	84
	C	Poor	63	74	82	85
		Good	61	73	81	84
	C + CR	Poor	62	73	81	84
		Good	60	72	80	83
	C&T	Poor	61	72	79	82
		Good	59	70	78	81
	C&T+ CR	Poor	60	71	78	81
		Good	58	69	77	80
Close-seeded or broadcast legumes or rotation meadow	SR	Poor	66	77	85	89
		Good	58	72	81	85
	C	Poor	64	75	83	85
		Good	55	69	78	83
	C&T	Poor	63	73	80	83
		Good	51	67	76	80

<sup>1</sup> Average runoff condition, and  $I_a=0.2S$

<sup>2</sup> Crop residue cover applies only if residue is on at least 5% of the surface throughout the year.

<sup>3</sup> Hydraulic condition is based on combination factors that affect infiltration and runoff, including (a) density and canopy of vegetative areas, (b) amount of year-round cover, (c) amount of grass or close-seeded legumes, (d) percent of residue cover on the land surface (good  $\geq 20\%$ ), and (e) degree of surface roughness.

Poor: Factors impair infiltration and tend to increase runoff.

Good: Factors encourage average and better than average infiltration and tend to decrease runoff.

**Table 2-2c** Runoff curve numbers for other agricultural lands <sup>1/</sup>

Cover type	Cover description	Hydrologic condition	Curve numbers for hydrologic soil group			
			A	B	C	D
Pasture, grassland, or range—continuous forage for grazing. <sup>2/</sup>		Poor	68	79	86	89
		Fair	49	69	79	84
		Good	39	61	74	80
Meadow—continuous grass, protected from grazing and generally mowed for hay.		—	30	58	71	78
Brush—brush-weed-grass mixture with brush the major element. <sup>3/</sup>		Poor	48	67	77	83
		Fair	35	56	70	77
		Good	30 <sup>4/</sup>	48	65	73
Woods—grass combination (orchard or tree farm). <sup>5/</sup>		Poor	57	73	82	86
		Fair	43	65	76	82
		Good	32	58	72	79
Woods. <sup>6/</sup>		Poor	45	66	77	83
		Fair	36	60	73	79
		Good	30 <sup>4/</sup>	55	70	77
Farmsteads—buildings, lanes, driveways, and surrounding lots.		—	59	74	82	86

<sup>1</sup> Average runoff condition, and  $I_a = 0.2S$ .

<sup>2</sup> *Poor*: <50% ground cover or heavily grazed with no mulch.

*Fair*: 50 to 75% ground cover and not heavily grazed.

*Good*: > 75% ground cover and lightly or only occasionally grazed.

<sup>3</sup> *Poor*: <50% ground cover.

*Fair*: 50 to 75% ground cover.

*Good*: >75% ground cover.

<sup>4</sup> Actual curve number is less than 30; use CN = 30 for runoff computations.

<sup>5</sup> CN's shown were computed for areas with 50% woods and 50% grass (pasture) cover. Other combinations of conditions may be computed from the CN's for woods and pasture.

<sup>6</sup> *Poor*: Forest litter, small trees, and brush are destroyed by heavy grazing or regular burning.

*Fair*: Woods are grazed but not burned, and some forest litter covers the soil.

*Good*: Woods are protected from grazing, and litter and brush adequately cover the soil.

**TABLE C-2. RATIONAL RUNOFF COEFFICIENTS**

(1 page)

*Source:* Table F.2 from Delaware County Planning Department, December 2011,  
*Crum Creek Watershed Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.*

TABLE F-2

RATIONAL RUNOFF COEFFICIENTS

LAND USE DESCRIPTION	HYDROLOGIC SOIL GROUP			
	A	B	C	D
Cultivated land : without conservation treatment	.49	.67	.81	.88
: with conservation treatment	.27	.43	.61	.67
Pasture or range land: poor condition	.38	.63	.78	.84
: good condition	---*	.25	.51	.65
Meadow: good condition	---*	---*	.44	.61
Woods: thin stand, poor cover, no mulch	---*	.34	.59	.70
: good cover	---*	---*	.45	.59
Open spaces, lawns, parks, golf courses, cemeteries				
Good condition: grass cover on 75% or more of the area	---*	.25	.51	.65
Fair condition: grass cover on 50% to 75% of the area	---*	.45	.63	.74
Commercial and business areas (85% impervious)	.84	.90	.93	.96
Industrial districts (72% impervious)	.67	.81	.88	.92
Residential:				
Average lot size      Average % impervious				
1/8 acre or less      65	.59	.76	.86	.90
1/4 acre      38	.25	.49	.67	.78
1/3 acre      30	---*	.49	.67	.78
1/2 acre      25	---*	.45	.65	.76
1 acre      20	---*	.41	.63	.74
Paved parking lots, roofs, driveways, etc.	.99	.99	.99	.99
Streets and roads:				
Paved with curbs and storm sewers	.99	.99	.99	.99
Gravel	.57	.76	.84	.88
Dirt	.49	.69	.80	.84

Notes: Values are based on SCS definitions and are average values.

Values indicated by ---\* should be determined by the design engineer based on site characteristics.

Source : New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Technical Manual for Stream Encroachment, August 1984

**TABLE C-3. MANNING'S 'n' VALUES**  
(3 pages)

*Source:* Table 3-1 from United States Army Corps of Engineers, January 2010,  
*HEC-RAS River Analysis System, Hydraulic Reference Manual*, Version 4.1.

Table 3-1 Manning's 'n' Values

Type of Channel and Description	Minimum	Normal	Maximum
<b>A. Natural Streams</b>			
<b>1. Main Channels</b>			
a. Clean, straight, full, no rifts or deep pools			
b. Same as above, but more stones and weeds	0.025	0.030	0.033
c. Clean, winding, some pools and shoals	0.030	0.035	0.040
d. Same as above, but some weeds and stones	0.033	0.040	0.045
e. Same as above, lower stages, more ineffective slopes and sections	0.035	0.045	0.050
f. Same as "d" but more stones	0.040	0.048	0.055
g. Sluggish reaches, weedy, deep pools	0.045	0.050	0.060
h. Very weedy reaches, deep pools, or floodways with heavy stands of timber and brush	0.050	0.070	0.080
	0.070	0.100	0.150
<b>2. Flood Plains</b>			
a. Pasture no brush			
1. Short grass	0.025	0.030	0.035
2. High grass	0.030	0.035	0.050
b. Cultivated areas			
1. No crop	0.020	0.030	0.040
2. Mature row crops	0.025	0.035	0.045
3. Mature field crops	0.030	0.040	0.050
c. Brush			
1. Scattered brush, heavy weeds	0.035	0.050	0.070
2. Light brush and trees, in winter	0.035	0.050	0.060
3. Light brush and trees, in summer	0.040	0.060	0.080
4. Medium to dense brush, in winter	0.045	0.070	0.110
5. Medium to dense brush, in summer	0.070	0.100	0.160
d. Trees			
1. Cleared land with tree stumps, no sprouts	0.030	0.040	0.050
2. Same as above, but heavy sprouts	0.050	0.060	0.080
3. Heavy stand of timber, few down trees, little undergrowth, flow below branches	0.080	0.100	0.120
4. Same as above, but with flow into branches	0.100	0.120	0.160
5. Dense willows, summer, straight	0.110	0.150	0.200
<b>3. Mountain Streams, no vegetation in channel, banks usually steep, with trees and brush on banks submerged</b>			
a. Bottom: gravels, cobbles, and few boulders	0.030	0.040	0.050
b. Bottom: cobbles with large boulders	0.040	0.050	0.070

Table 3-1 (Continued) Manning's 'n' Values

Type of Channel and Description	Minimum	Normal	Maximum
<b>B. Lined or Built-Up Channels</b>			
<b>1. Concrete</b>			
a. Trowel finish	0.011	0.013	0.015
b. Float Finish	0.013	0.015	0.016
c. Finished, with gravel bottom	0.015	0.017	0.020
d. Unfinished	0.014	0.017	0.020
e. Gunit, good section	0.016	0.019	0.023
f. Gunit, wavy section	0.018	0.022	0.025
g. On good excavated rock	0.017	0.020	
h. On irregular excavated rock	0.022	0.027	
<b>2. Concrete bottom float finished with sides of:</b>			
a. Dressed stone in mortar	0.015	0.017	0.020
b. Random stone in mortar	0.017	0.020	0.024
c. Cement rubble masonry, plastered	0.016	0.020	0.024
d. Cement rubble masonry	0.020	0.025	0.030
e. Dry rubble on riprap	0.020	0.030	0.035
<b>3. Gravel bottom with sides of:</b>			
a. Formed concrete	0.017	0.020	0.025
b. Random stone in mortar	0.020	0.023	0.026
c. Dry rubble or riprap	0.023	0.033	0.036
<b>4. Brick</b>			
a. Glazed	0.011	0.013	0.015
b. In cement mortar	0.012	0.015	0.018
<b>5. Metal</b>			
a. Smooth steel surfaces	0.011	0.012	0.014
b. Corrugated metal	0.021	0.025	0.030
<b>6. Asphalt</b>			
a. Smooth	0.013	0.013	
b. Rough	0.016	0.016	
<b>7. Vegetal lining</b>			
	0.030		0.500



Table 3-1 (Continued) Manning's 'n' Values

Type of Channel and Description	Minimum	Normal	Maximum
<i>C. Excavated or Dredged Channels</i>			
<b>1. Earth, straight and uniform</b>			
a. Clean, recently completed	0.016	0.018	0.020
b. Clean, after weathering	0.018	0.022	0.025
c. Gravel, uniform section, clean	0.022	0.025	0.030
d. With short grass, few weeds	0.022	0.027	0.033
<b>2. Earth, winding and sluggish</b>			
a. No vegetation	0.023	0.025	0.030
b. Grass, some weeds	0.025	0.030	0.033
c. Dense weeds or aquatic plants in deep channels	0.030	0.035	0.040
d. Earth bottom and rubble side	0.028	0.030	0.035
e. Stony bottom and weedy banks	0.025	0.035	0.040
f. Cobble bottom and clean sides	0.030	0.040	0.050
<b>3. Dragline-excavated or dredged</b>			
a. No vegetation	0.025	0.028	0.033
b. Light brush on banks	0.035	0.050	0.060
<b>4. Rock cuts</b>			
a. Smooth and uniform	0.025	0.035	0.040
b. Jagged and irregular	0.035	0.040	0.050
<b>5. Channels not maintained, weeds and brush</b>			
a. Clean bottom, brush on sides	0.040	0.050	0.080
b. Same as above, highest stage of flow	0.045	0.070	0.110
c. Dense weeds, high as flow depth	0.050	0.080	0.120
d. Dense brush, high stage	0.080	0.100	0.140

Other sources that include pictures of selected streams as a guide to n value determination are available (Fasken, 1963; Barnes, 1967; and Hicks and Mason, 1991). In general, these references provide color photos with tables of calibrated n values for a range of flows.

Although there are many factors that affect the selection of the n value for the channel, some of the most important factors are the type and size of materials that compose the bed and banks of a channel, and the shape of the channel. Cowan (1956) developed a procedure for estimating the effects of these factors to determine the value of Manning's n of a channel. In Cowan's procedure, the value of n is computed by the following equation:

**ORDINANCE APPENDIX D**

**WEST NILE VIRUS DESIGN GUIDANCE**

## WEST NILE VIRUS GUIDANCE

(This source is from the Monroe County, PA Conservation District that researched the potential of West Nile Virus problems from BMPs due to a number of calls they were receiving)

### **Monroe County Conservation District Guidance: Stormwater Management and West Nile Virus**

#### **Source: Brodhead McMichaels Creeks Watershed Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance Final Draft 2/23/04**

The Monroe County Conservation District recognizes the need to address the problem of nonpoint source pollution impacts caused by runoff from impervious surfaces. The new stormwater policy being integrated into Act 167 stormwater management regulations by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) will make nonpoint pollution controls an important component of all future plans and updates to existing plans. In addition, to meet post-construction anti-degradation standards under the state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program, applicants will be required to employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address nonpoint pollution concerns.

Studies conducted throughout the United States have shown that wet basins and in particular constructed wetlands are effective in traditional stormwater management areas such as channel stability and flood control and are one of the most effective ways to remove stormwater pollutants (United States Environmental Protection Agency 1991, Center for Watershed Protection 2000). From Maryland to Oregon, studies have shown that as urbanization and impervious surfaces increase in a watershed, the streams in those watersheds become degraded (CWP 2000). Although there is debate over the threshold of impervious cover when degradation becomes apparent (some studies show as little as 6% while others show closer to 20%), there is agreement that impervious surfaces cause nonpoint pollution in urban and urbanizing watersheds and that degradation is ensured if stormwater BMPs are not implemented.

Although constructed wetlands and ponds are desirable from a water quality perspective, there may be concerns about the possibility of these stormwater management structures becoming breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The Conservation District feels that although it may be a valid concern, **municipalities should not adopt ordinance provisions prohibiting wet basins for stormwater management.**

### **Mosquitoes**

The questions surrounding mosquito production in wetlands and ponds have intensified in recent years by the outbreak of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. As is the case with all vector-borne maladies, the life cycle of West Nile Virus is complicated, traveling from mosquito to bird, back to mosquito, and then to other animals including humans. *Culex pipiens* was identified as the vector species in the first documented cases from New York in 1999. This species is still considered the primary transmitter of the disease across its range. Today there are some 60 species of mosquitoes that inhabit Pennsylvania. Along with *C. pipiens*, three other

species have been identified as vectors of West Nile Virus while four more have been identified as potential vectors.

The four known vectors in NE Pennsylvania are *Culex pipiens*, *C. restuans*, *C. salinarius*, and *Ochlerotatus japonicus*. All four of these species prefer, and almost exclusively use, artificial containers (old tires, rain gutters, birdbaths, etc.) as larval habitats. In the case of *C. pipiens*, the most notorious of the vector mosquitoes, the dirtier the water, the better they like it. The important factor is that these species do not thrive in functioning wetlands where competition for resources and predation by larger aquatic and terrestrial organisms is high.

The remaining four species, *Aedes vexans*, *Ochlerotatus Canadensis*, *O. triseriatus*, and *O. trivittatus*, are currently considered potential vectors due to laboratory tests (except the *O. trivittatus*, which did have one confirmed vector pool for West Nile Virus in PA during 2002). All four of these species prefer vernal habitats and ponded woodland areas following heavy summer rains. These species may be the greatest threat of disease transmission around stormwater basins that pond water for more than four days. This can be mitigated, however, by establishing ecologically functioning wetlands.

### **Stormwater Facilities**

If a stormwater wetland or pond is constructed properly and a diverse ecological community develops, mosquitoes should not become a problem. Wet basins and wetlands constructed as stormwater management facilities should be designed to attract a diverse wildlife community. If a wetland is planned, proper hydrologic soil conditions and the establishment of hydrophytic vegetation will promote the population of the wetland by amphibians and other mosquito predators. In natural wetlands, predatory insects and amphibians are effective at keeping mosquito populations in check during the larval stage of development while birds and bats prey on adult mosquitoes.

The design of a stormwater wetland must include the selection of hydrophytic plant species for their pollutant uptake capabilities and for not contributing to the potential for vector mosquito breeding. In particular, species of emergent vegetation with little submerged growth are preferable. By limiting the vegetation growing below the water surface, larvae lose protective cover, and there is less chance of anaerobic conditions occurring in the water.

Stormwater ponds can be designed for multiple purposes. When incorporated into an open space design, a pond can serve as a stormwater management facility and a community amenity. Aeration fountains and stocked fish should be added to keep larval mosquito populations in check.

Publications from the PA Department of Health and the Penn State Cooperative Extension concerning West Nile Virus identify aggressive public education about the risks posed by standing water in artificial containers (tires, trash cans, rain gutters, bird baths) as the most effective method to control vector mosquitoes.

## **Conclusion**

The Conservation District understands the pressure faced by municipalities when dealing with multifaceted issues such as stormwater management and encourages the incorporation of water quality management techniques into stormwater designs. As Monroe County continues to grow, conservation design, infiltration, and constructed wetlands and ponds should be among the preferred design options to reduce the impacts of increases in impervious surfaces. When designed and constructed appropriately, the runoff mitigation benefits to the community from these design options will far outweigh their potential to become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

**APPENDIX E**

**STORMWATER  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES  
AND CONVEYANCES  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

**SAMPLE AGREEMENT**

Adopted  
New London Township  
May 17, 2023

Prepared By:	LEAVE BLANK For Recorder's Use Only
Return To: New London Township.	
UPI#:	
Property Street Address:	

**STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) AND  
CONVEYANCES  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT**, made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between \_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter the "Landowner"), and \_\_\_\_\_, Chester County, Pennsylvania, (hereinafter "Municipality");

**WITNESSETH**

**WHEREAS**, the Landowner is the owner of certain real property by virtue of a deed of Conveyance recorded in the land records of Chester County, Pennsylvania, at Deed Book \_\_\_\_\_ and Page \_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter "Property"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Landowner is proceeding to build and develop the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stormwater Best Management Practices (hereinafter BMP(s)) and Conveyances Operations and Maintenance Plan OR Simplified Approach Stormwater Management Site Plan \_\_\_\_\_ (title of approved plans) approved by the Municipality \_\_\_\_\_ (date) (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan") for the Property, which is attached hereto as Appendix A and made part hereof, provides for management of stormwater within the confines of the Property through the use of BMP(s) and Conveyances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality and the Landowner, for itself and its administrators, executors, successors, heirs, and assigns, agree that the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Municipality and the protection and maintenance of water quality require that stormwater BMP(s) and Conveyances be constructed and maintained on the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, for the purposes of this agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

**BMP – "Best Management Practice"** – Activities, facilities, designs, measures, or procedures as specifically identified in the Plan, used to manage stormwater impacts from Regulated Activities to provide water quality treatment, infiltration, volume reduction, and/or peak rate control, to promote groundwater recharge, and to otherwise meet the purposes of the

Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance. Stormwater BMPs are commonly grouped into one (1) of two (2) broad categories or measures: "structural" or "nonstructural." Nonstructural BMPs or measures refer to low impact development and conservation design practices used to minimize the contact of pollutants with stormwater runoff. These practices aim to limit the total volume of stormwater runoff and manage stormwater at its source by techniques such as protecting natural systems and incorporating existing landscape features. Nonstructural BMPs include, but are not limited to, the protection of sensitive and special value features such as wetlands and riparian areas, the preservation of open space while clustering and concentrating development, the reduction of impervious cover, and the disconnection of downspouts from storm sewers. Structural BMPs are those that consist of a constructed system that is designed and engineered to capture and treat stormwater runoff. Structural BMPs are those that consist of a physical system that is designed and engineered to capture and treat stormwater runoff. Structural BMPs include, but are not limited to, a wide variety of practices and devices from large-scale retention ponds and constructed wetlands to small-scale underground treatment systems, infiltration facilities, filter strips, bioretention, wet ponds, permeable paving, grassed swales, riparian buffers, sand filters, detention basins, and other manufactured devices designed to mitigate stormwater impacts. The BMPs identified in the Plan are permanent appurtenances to the Property; and

**Conveyance** – As specifically identified in the Plan, a manmade, existing or proposed facility, feature or channel used for the transportation or transmission of stormwater from one place to another, including pipes, drainage ditches, channels and swales (vegetated and other), gutters, stream channels, and like facilities or features. The Conveyances identified in the Plan are permanent appurtenances to the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality requires, through the implementation of the Plan, that stormwater management BMPs and conveyances, as required by the Plan and the Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance, be constructed and adequately inspected, operated and maintained by the Landowner or their designee.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing promises, the mutual covenants contained herein, and the following terms and conditions, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound hereby, agree as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals to this Agreement are incorporated as terms of this Agreement as if fully set forth in the body of this Agreement.
2. The Landowner shall construct the BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) in accordance with the final stormwater management site plans and specifications OR Simplified Approach Stormwater Management Site Plan as approved by the Municipality in the Plan.
3. Upon completion of construction, the Landowner shall be responsible for completing final As-Built Plans of all BMPs, Conveyances, or other stormwater management facilities included in the approved stormwater management site plan as per the requirements of Section 502 of the Stormwater Management Ordinance.



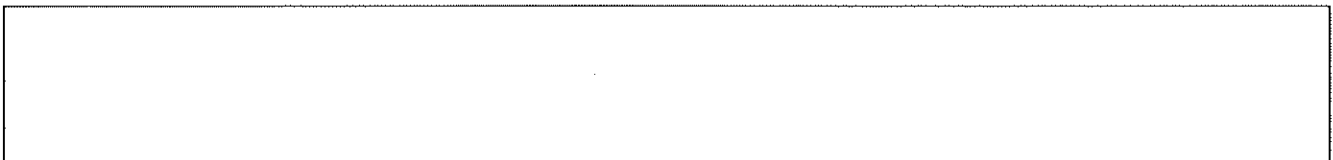
4. The Landowner shall inspect, operate and maintain the BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) as shown on the Plan in good working order acceptable to the Municipality and in accordance with the specific inspection and maintenance requirements in the approved Plan and the current version of the Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual, as amended.

5. The Landowner hereby grants permission to the Municipality, its authorized agents and employees, to enter upon the Property from a public right-of-way or roadway, at reasonable times and upon presentation of proper identification, to inspect the BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) whenever it deems necessary for compliance with this Agreement, the Plan and the Municipality's Stormwater Management Ordinance. Whenever possible, the Municipality shall notify the Landowner prior to entering the Property.

6. The Landowner shall inspect the BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) to determine if they continue to function as intended.

7. The BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) shall be inspected according to the following frequencies, at a minimum:

- a. Annually for the first 5 years.
- b. Once every 3 years thereafter.
- c. During or immediately after the cessation of a rain event totaling 3 or more inches during any given duration.+



Written inspection reports shall be created to document each inspection. The inspection report shall contain the date and time of the inspection, the individual(s) who completed the inspection, the location of the BMP, facility or structure inspected, observations on performance, and recommendations for improving performance, if applicable. Inspection reports shall be submitted to the Municipality within 30 days following completion of the inspection.

Landowners must notify the Municipality of BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) that are no longer functioning as designed and must coordinate with the Municipality to determine a schedule to repair or retrofit these systems to restore designed functionality.

8. The Landowner acknowledges that, per the Municipality's Stormwater Ordinance, it is unlawful, without written approval of the Municipality, to:

- a. Modify, remove, fill, landscape, alter or impair the effectiveness of any BMP or Conveyance that is constructed as part of the approved Plan;

- b. Place any structure, fill, landscaping, additional vegetation, yard waste, brush cuttings, or other waste or debris into a BMP or Conveyance that would limit or alter the functioning of the BMP or Conveyance;
- c. Allow the BMP or Conveyance to exist in a condition which does not conform to the approved Plan or this Agreement; and
- d. Dispose of, discharge, place or otherwise allow pollutants including, but not limited to, deicers, pool additives, household chemicals, and automotive fluids to directly or indirectly enter any BMP or Conveyance.

9. In the event that the Landowner fails to operate and maintain the BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) as shown on the Plan in good working order acceptable to the Municipality, the Landowner shall be in violation of this Agreement, and the Landowner agrees that the Municipality or its representatives may, in addition to and not in derogation or diminution of any remedies available to it under the Stormwater Ordinance or other statutes, codes, rules or regulations, or this Agreement, enter upon the Property and take whatever action is deemed necessary to maintain said BMP(s) and Conveyance(s). It is expressly understood and agreed that the Municipality is under no obligation to maintain or repair said facilities, and in no event shall this Agreement be construed to impose any such obligation on the Municipality.

10. In the event that the Municipality, pursuant to this Agreement, performs work of any nature or expends any funds in performance of said work for inspection, labor, use of equipment, supplies, materials, and the like, the Landowner shall reimburse the Municipality for all expenses (direct and indirect) incurred within 90 days of delivery of an invoice from the Municipality. Failure of the Landowner to make prompt payment to the Municipality may result in enforcement proceedings, which may include the filing of a lien against the Property, which filing is expressly authorized by the Landowner.

11. The intent and purpose of this Agreement is to ensure the proper maintenance of the on-site BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) by the Landowner; provided, however, that this Agreement shall not be deemed to create or affect any additional liability on any party for damage alleged to result from or be caused by stormwater runoff.

12. The Landowner, for itself and its executors, administrators, assigns, heirs, and other successors in interest, hereby releases and shall release the Municipality's employees, its agents and designated representatives from all damages, accidents, casualties, occurrences, or claims which might arise or be asserted against said employees, agents or representatives arising out of the construction, presence, existence, or maintenance of the BMP(s) and Conveyance(s) either by the Landowner or Municipality. In the event that a claim is asserted or threatened against the Municipality, its employees, agents or designated representatives, the Municipality shall notify the Landowner, and the Landowner shall defend, at his own expense, any claim, suit, action or proceeding, or any threatened claim, suit, action or proceeding against the Municipality, or, at the request of the Municipality, pay the cost, including attorneys' fees, of defense of the same undertaken on behalf of the Municipality. If any judgment or claims against the Municipality's employees, agents or designated representatives shall be allowed, the Landowner shall pay all damages, judgments or claims and any costs and expenses incurred by the Municipality, including attorneys' fees, regarding said damages, judgments or claims.

13. The Municipality may enforce this Agreement in accordance with its Stormwater Ordinance, at law or in equity, against the Landowner for breach of this Agreement. Remedies may include fines, penalties, damages or such equitable relief as the parties may agree upon or as may be determined by a Court of competent jurisdiction. Recovery by the Municipality shall include its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in seeking relief under this Agreement.

14. Failure or delay in enforcing any provision of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver by the Municipality of its rights of enforcement hereunder.

15. The Landowner shall inform future buyers of the Property about the function of, operation, inspection and maintenance requirements of the BMP(s) prior to the purchase of the Property by said future buyer, and upon purchase of the Property the future buyer assumes all responsibilities as Landowner and must comply with all components of this Agreement.

16. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Municipality and the Landowner, as well as their heirs, administrators, executors, assigns and successors in interest.

This Agreement shall be recorded at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Chester County, Pennsylvania, and shall constitute a covenant running with the Property, in perpetuity.

WITNESS the following signatures and seals:

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

For the Municipality:

\_\_\_\_\_

(SEAL)

For the Landowner:

\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ (City, Borough, Township)

By Individual:

State of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. Before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be person whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that \_\_\_\_\_ executed the same for the purpose therein contains.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

By the Company:

State of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who acknowledged himself/herself to be \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, and that he/she being authorized to do so, executed the forgoing instrument for the purpose therein contained by signing the name of the Company by herself/himself as \_\_\_\_\_.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires: