
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The management of all water pollution sources, both point and non-point sources, is a stated goal of the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act. An important source of pollutants is storm water runoff from urban and developing areas. This runoff can degrade water quality in the receiving stream system. The City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, and Pineville have adopted post-construction storm water ordinances for the purpose of controlling and managing storm water runoff and associated negative water quality and quantity impacts resulting from post-construction storm water discharges through the use of structural management practices.

The key objectives of the post-construction ordinances are:

1. Achieve compliance with the Phase I and Phase II NPDES Storm Water Permit requirements for post-construction pollution control, as applied to the respective jurisdictions.
2. Satisfactorily address the guidelines to mitigate the cumulative and secondary impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources and water quality specified by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Goose Creek and the Yadkin River Watershed.
3. Satisfactorily address the causes of impairment identified in the N.C. 2002 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report for surface waters in Mecklenburg County when the potential sources of water quality impairment are identified as urban runoff/storm sewers.
4. Satisfactorily address detention measures for the control of storm water volumes and peaks associated with new construction.

This manual has been developed to assist in the design and evaluation of storm water management facilities (SCMs) for demonstrating compliance with Phase I and Phase II post-construction stormwater regulations, watershed protection overlay ordinances, detention ordinances, rezoning notes, and SCMs required by State 401 Water Quality Certifications. The manual provides engineering and professional design guidance to:

- local agencies responsible for implementing the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Stormwater Management program,
- professional designers responsible for the design of stormwater management facilities,
- developers involved in site planning and design,
- others involved in stormwater management at various levels who may find the manual useful as a technical reference to define and illustrate engineering design techniques.

Application of the procedures and criteria presented in this manual will contribute toward the effective and economical management of stormwater in the community.

Design methods other than those included in this manual may be used if approved by the specific jurisdiction in which the proposed project occurs. Complete documentation of these methods showing that the alternative results provide the same or higher level of protection may be required for approval.

1.2 Contents

The manual presents technical and engineering procedures and criteria needed to comply with SCM design requirements contained in post-construction stormwater regulations, post construction stormwater ordinances, watershed protection overlay ordinances, detention ordinances, rezoning notes, and SCMs required by State 401 Water Quality Certifications in the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and the Six Towns.

Where appropriate, each chapter contains the equations, charts, and nomographs needed to design specific stormwater management facilities. Compliance with the post-construction regulations will be assessed by each jurisdiction's staff using the methods presented in this manual.

1.3 Limitations

The user is encouraged to obtain the original or additional reference material, as appropriate.

1.4 Updating

This manual will be updated and revised, as necessary, to reflect up-to-date engineering and professional practices and information applicable to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. Any changes to the MDC or NCDEQ Stormwater Design Manual will be evaluated and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg SCM Design Manual will be updated as necessary. Registered manual users who provide a current address will automatically be sent notices of changes as they are produced. The updated manual will be available in electronic format on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services website.

1.5 Other Resources

This manual must be used in conjunction with other applicable and/or adopted standards, publications, regulations, etc. The other applicable standards include the latest approved versions of:

- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Design Manual
- City of Charlotte Unified Development Ordinance
- Charlotte Land Development Standards Manual
- Mecklenburg County Land Development Standards Manual
- North Carolina Department of Environment Quality (NCDEQ) – Stormwater Design Manual
- North Carolina Department of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources (NCDEMLR) – Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual
- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) - Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures
- Charlotte Water Policies, Procedures, Standards and Specifications

The standard that is most protective of water quality must be used, if different standards are presented in these or any other resources.