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Greetings!

Construction project planning entails many elements, but two critical ones are:

- 1) Identifying vulnerable downstream natural resources, and
- 2) Creating a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to protect them that complies with local, state & federal regulations.

The article below gives an overview of what resources to look out for and why it's important to do so. When

identifying sensitive areas and natural resources in the area of your construction site, keep in mind that "sensitive areas" can include a wide variety of potential issues ranging from state waters, waters of the US, residential areas, stormwater ponds, and even open space.

With regard to your construction plan, each state and municipality has its own requirements for what it must protect. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or in Georgia what we call an Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control (ES&PC) Plan, is essential in outlining how you will do that. This [article published by](#)



[www.erosioncontrolservices.net](http://www.erosioncontrolservices.net) does a great job in detailing important considerations for the SWPPP design professional, as well as the project owner/operator while implementing the plan. Don't forget that we at the NPDES Stormwater Training Institute are here to help you with your training needs!



## WHY BACK YARD BUFFERS MATTER?

We've been getting a lot of questions related to the requirements for residential backyard buffers. Are they important? Do they really make a difference in a person's quality of life? Are they important for water quality? The purpose of this

article is to provide enough information and resources for the reader to actually learn about buffers, what they do and why they are so valuable in Georgia!

Believe it or not, there are many people in the land development community who think buffers are nothing more than a "land grab" by the government. No matter what the situation, it's always easy to put a simple label on something without taking the time to really explore the issue, and the matter of Georgia's precious state waters and buffers is no different.

Some people don't think twice about buffers, and others absolutely love them because they spend a lot of time enjoying the benefits of swimming and fishing in or near the habitat they provide. In my opinion, the photo above best displays the reason buffers are so vital in Georgia, especially in urbanized areas.

Click on the photo to the right or click [Watch this 1 minute video](#) to see a dramatic example of damage caused from removing backyard buffers, and you will begin to understand the importance of protecting them.



Everyone should know that if it weren't for the area of land located immediately adjacent to the bank of state waters in its natural state of vegetation (buffer), a lot of personal property would be lost due to stream bank erosion. It's the tree roots that serve as "mother nature's stream bank rebar" that protects the adjacent land from erosion, while also providing shade to keep the water cool enough for oxygen to be breathed in by fish so they can survive our hot summers.

[Click on this link](#) to download your **guide to backyard buffers**. I bet you'll learn a few things about one of Georgia's most valuable protections for our land and water resources!





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Level 1A - Blue Card

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**RE-CERTIFICATION COURSES**

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#### 4 PDHs

We are pleased to offer our students a quarterly Sediment Barriers 4-hour course. [Click here](#) for a brief video discussing the importance of erosion prevention, but secondly and just as importantly, proper sediment barrier installation. Dr. Jim Spotts and I provide training on how to properly install and maintain silt fences and inlet sediment trap devices, etc. to keep sediment from entering your watersheds. **It's worth 4 PDHs.**

We hope to see you at our next class!

[Sediment Barriers - REGISTER HERE](#)

### Online Courses:

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To the trailer to check compliance status



Inspecting and maintaining perimeter control BMPs



Designing and Maintaining the SWPPP



## MS4CECI

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## MS4GIT MS4 Green Infrastructure Technician

The MS4GIT Course is a 1-day training experience focusing on Green Infrastructure BMPs and their installation & maintenance. Attendees will learn how to identify and solve issues surrounding poor maintenance, as well as avoid GI failures entirely. This course was designed especially for stormwater managers, stormwater engineers and consultants, MS4 Inspectors and maintenance crews.



Upon completion, trainees will have learned to:

- Implement correct construction sequencing protocol for BMPs
- Understand how to read a BMP landscape plan
- Identify soil mixtures and calculate soil / material volumes
- Identify and select appropriate plants for BMPs
- Understand maintenance requirements of BMPs
- Identify common problems and solutions for BMPs
- Understand how to implement a landscape maintenance plan
- Evaluate plant performance and how to replace failing plants

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



October 19, 2020 – Today, the nation's leading hunting, fishing and habitat conservation organizations released a statement on the Thirty by Thirty Initiative (30 by 30 Initiative) to

establish a goal of placing 30% of the planet's lands and waters under protected status by the year 2030.

Given the historic and ongoing role that hunters and anglers have played in land, water, fish, and wildlife conservation in the United States, the Hunting and Fishing Community Statement expresses support for:

- Recognizing the positive role that hunting and fishing play in conservation;
- Protected area definitions that allow

[READ MORE](#)



## Too Much Rain?

By Gene Norman, President  
WaterWatch PRO

Could there be too much rain? Yes – and it's a trend we're all experiencing more and more lately. Not only are landfalling tropical systems becoming wetter and wetter, but also, regular thunderstorms are depositing devastating deluges. Knowing about heavy rainfall events and having a plan should be a key part of your BMP.

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# TECH TALK

## Quick Links



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*Tech Talk is a forum for resolving erosion and sediment control and/or construction related problems from a technical perspective. Questions are submitted by the reader; suggestions may be from the NPDES Training Institute, Southeast Environmental Consultants, LLC (SEC) or other sources. The reader is solely responsible for the results, if suggestions are implemented.*

### Question:

As a Design Professional, I find it annoying that I'm required to make an "onsite" field visit prior to creating the ES&PC Plan. What's the point when I can download all the information I need online?

### Answer:

The simple answer to the question is that **nothing replaces boots on the ground** in discovering all the different issues that may affect land development. Such issues might include archeological finds, variations in topography, WOTUS and state waters, etc.



Planning is the key to an effective and cost-efficient Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, keeping in mind that "effective" is the key! Planning is the critical process by which land disturbing activities are formulated. The planning process for activities governed by Act 599 can be broken down into the following four progressive stages:

1. Preliminary site investigations
2. Preliminary design
3. Subsurface investigation
4. Final design

For many small land-disturbing activities, steps one and two are sometimes combined, but planning for major developments normally follows these four steps.

To be successful, a plan must include measures for efficient scheduling and coordination of construction activities and provisions for the maintenance of conservation practices. Stormwater management facilities should be included to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff to on-site facilities both during and after construction is completed. It is *desirable* to include stormwater retention structures. Land-disturbing activities normally will result in an increase in runoff from the site. Vegetative and structural practices will reduce the impact of damages on downstream facilities resulting from an increase in runoff.



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## We Can't Give Up on Demanding NPDES Permit Compliance from Polluters!

**Especially When They're Our  
Federal, State and Local Governments!**

America's past water pollution and the severe modern day pollution found in some American cities, as well as countries like China and India, send a resounding message of the importance of NPDES permit compliance. What cities like [Los Angeles](#) (see right) are doing is inexcusable in America. They are willingly violating their MS4 Permit by pressure



washing human excrement and other pollutants directly down their storm drains. Los Angeles, Seattle and others are just another reminder of how important it is that we Americans demand compliance with Clean Water Act NPDES rules & regulations! Every time you go fishing or jump in the lake to take a swim, be grateful for our NPDES permitting program that makes it all possible. Respecting our neighbors downstream is what America is all about and it's compliance with NPDES Permits that helps us do that!

"We all need to view NPDES Permit compliance as an investment in our nation's future quality of life, so our children will also have an equally great place to live, swim, fish, boat and hunt tomorrow!" T. Luke Owen

**Sincerely,**  
T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI  
Owner/Operator

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