

## Sedimentation: Balancing Growth & Protection

Sedimentation is a critical issue that demands our attention. The increasing volume of sediment accumulating at the bottom of urban creeks, rivers, and lakes cannot be ignored. Historically, sedimentation, primarily originating from non-point sources such as agriculture and timber harvesting practices, has inflicted severe damage on America's water bodies over centuries. However, the problem intensifies when erosion from graded construction sites accelerates sedimentation in our watersheds exponentially due to inadequate design, installation, and maintenance of vegetative and structural measures to prevent stormwater discharges laden with sediment.



The United States stands apart in its commitment to addressing sedimentation in its watersheds. Unlike many other countries that neglect this issue, the U.S. has established a highly effective system for improving and maintaining surface water quality, primarily outlined in Part 402 of the Clean Water Act through NPDES Permit compliance. When drafting America's water quality regulations and guidance, the importance of tackling water pollution was clearly understood by both the writers and the public who supported them. However, over subsequent generations, the political resolve to enforce NPDES permit compliance has weakened, with many government leaders seemingly unaware of the lessons learned from neglecting to regulate point source pollution.



President Theodore Roosevelt eloquently stated on August 31, 1910, "I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land, but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob by wasteful use, the generations that come after us." Indeed, implementing the best management practices necessary to "eliminate" pollutants from discharge entails significant costs for construction site owners/operators. However, it is this commitment to safeguarding water quality that has shaped America's current environmental landscape—a testament to our ethos of paying it forward. Today, there appears to be a disconnect among many young people graduating from high school regarding the importance of economic growth, often viewing industries as adversaries to water quality. Yet, history tells a different story, highlighting how a robust economy serves as the financial backbone for funding water quality initiatives and maintaining a high quality of life. Without the resources generated by successful projects, we lack the means to finance the design, installation, and maintenance of BMPs crucial for safeguarding our watersheds. It is imperative to support efforts aimed at economic growth and capitalism, which provide jobs for Americans. However, it is equally imperative to recognize that underfunding or dismantling programs designed to protect water quality is unacceptable. Economic prosperity and environmental protection must be balanced carefully. Without this equilibrium, neither can be sustained.

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### Balancing Stormwater Management: Optimizing Soil Health

Optimizing soil balance is a crucial element of effective stormwater management as it enhances water retention, filtration, and infiltration capabilities of the soil. This, in turn, helps mitigate pollutants, reduce runoff, and improve overall stormwater treatment efficiency, contributing to sustainable and resilient stormwater management practices. [This article](#) dives into practical strategies aimed at enhancing soil health and improving stormwater treatment. It provides insights on soil amendment practices, methods to increase organic matter content, and other approaches to foster healthier soil ecosystems. By implementing these strategies, stormwater management professionals can optimize soil balance, enhance water quality, and promote sustainable practices.



### Maintaining Stormwater Infrastructure for Longevity

Maintenance of BMPs and the SWPPPs that design them is vital in stormwater management to ensure the optimal functionality and longevity of infrastructure, preventing issues such as clogging, sediment accumulation, and system failure.

Regular upkeep and inspections help mitigate risks, maximize system performance, and reduce long-term costs, ensuring effective stormwater management for a sustainable future. [This article](#) highlights the important role of routine inspections, cleaning, repairing, and upgrading components in preserving the functionality and longevity of stormwater management infrastructure. It also underscores the importance of incorporating vegetation management into maintenance practices, since overgrown vegetation can impede the proper functioning of stormwater infrastructure, leading to reduced capacity and increased maintenance requirements. Read on to learn more!

*"Our stormwater training is all about helping American's protect the cornerstone of our quality of life, which are clean creeks, rivers and lakes! The unity that comes from respecting and appreciating our individual roles in growing a strong and beautiful America is critical!"*

- Luke Owen  
Owner, NPDES Training Institute

## Upcoming Courses

### In-Person

- [Level 1A Fundamentals](#)
- [Level 1B Advanced Fundamentals](#)
- [Level II Introduction to Design](#)
- [Level 1A/1B & Level II Recertification](#)
- [MS4 Compliance & Enforcement Certified Inspector \(MS4CECI\)](#)
- [MS4 Green Infrastructure Technician \(MS4GIT\)](#)
- [MS4CECI Recertification](#)
- [HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections](#)

### Online/Zoom

- [Level 1A \(Blue Card\) Recert w/Trees, Design & Construction](#)
- [Level 1A \(Blue Card\) Recert w/GEOS & NPDES General Permit](#)
- [Level 1B \(Red Card\) Recert w/Trees, Design & Construction](#)
- [Level 1B \(Red Card\) Recert w/GEOS & NPDES General Permit](#)
- [Level II \(Tan/Grey Card\) Recert w/Trees, Design & Construction](#)
- [Level II \(Tan/Grey Card\) w/GEOS & NPDES General Permit](#)
- [MS4 Stormwater Inspector](#)
- [MS4CECI Renewal Course](#)
- [1A/1B/II Recertification \(ZOOM\)](#)

## Course Spotlight

### HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections



In this 4-hour training, attendees will not only meet the MS4 training requirements set forth in the NPDES Permit, but just as importantly will leave with the education, training, and materials needed to perform an effective stormwater inspection that will help prevent illicit discharges, thereby protecting the residents, visitors and aquatic organisms living in neighboring watersheds. Upon completion of this Inspection course, you will learn how to perform your field inspections with confidence every time, no matter the facility being inspected.

- The course will answer many common questions, a few of which are listed below.
- Can misunderstanding the definition of an "outfall" or a stormwater "structure" cause your site inspection to be ineffective?
  - How do you deal with difficult people during your site inspection?
  - Should a HVPS facility be inspected differently than an Industrial Facility? If so, how?
  - What is a highly visible pollutant source (HVPS) versus an industrial facility?
  - What makes the restaurant industry more of a potential watershed polluter than the manufacturing industry?
  - What forms and/or questions should the MS4 inspector ask when performing their inspection?

#### Upcoming HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections Courses:

- March 25, 2024 (Buford)
- October 16, 2024 (Buford)

[Register for the HVPS Course Now](#)

## Resources, Tips, Insights

For the NPDES Permittee, being able to demonstrate your intent to comply is paramount if you are to be protected from regulatory enforcement actions or third party lawsuits! WaterWatchPRO provides the first step in that regard by relaying daily rainfall data, without you as the superintendent having to worry about recording it yourself. Check it out, hundreds of people have and they love it!



Every time you go fishing, or jump in a 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 the NPDES permit that helps us do that.

America's past water pollution problems and the pollution we find today in regions like Asia, the Middle East and South America are just another reminder of how important it is that we comply with the Clean Water Act's water quality rules and regulations.

Permit compliance is an investment in our nation's future generations so that our children will also have an equally great place to live, swim, fish, boat and hunt tomorrow!