Chapter 3 Minimum Control Requirements

3.1 Introduction

This chapter establishes the minimum stormwater control standards necessary to implement the Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Ordinance within the *<local jurisdiction>*. It is the intention of this Design Manual that all proposed development, redevelopment, and major substantial improvement shall provide stormwater quality control for the Stormwater Retention Volume (SWRv) for Watershed Protection Areas and/or Special Watershed Protection Area. This *Manual* describes Better Site Design (BSD) practices, green infrastructure/low impact development practices (GI/LID), and stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in detail to support the stormwater retention requirements. Through in-line and off-line application of these practices, the cumulative impact is reduction of the runoff or retention on site of the design storm. The term "runoff reduction" is used throughout this Manual to describe the retention of the stormwater on site. SWRv is used to describe the volume of stormwater to be retained on site.

Two levels of stormwater retention are prescribed, the 85th and the 95th percentile storm, and are assigned based on a site's subwatershed as identified by the U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code 12 or HUC-12 presented in Section 2.2 below. In addition, peak discharge control of the post-development 2, 10, 25 and 50-year, 24-hour storms to their predevelopment flow shall be provided by a combination of structural controls, GI/LID practices and other non-structural BMPs. As well, requirements to manage the 100-yr, 24-hour storm event are provided in the extreme flood event section below. Further, this *Manual* and Appendices provide the framework and necessary tools to document the methods proposed by development plans to comply with these requirements. It should be noted that stormwater ponds are considered the least favorable structural best management practice to meet the SWRv and water quality requirements of this Manual.

3.2 Regulated Site Definition

According to the Stormwater Ordinance, the design criteria of this *Manual* shall be applicable to any new development or redevelopment activity, including, but not limited to, site plan applications, public improvement projects, and subdivision applications that meet the applicability standards found in Chapter 1.4.

The Southern Lowcountry stormwater design requirements are applied according to the flow chart in Figure 3.1 and should be determined as follows:

1) In sequence, first determine which HUC 12 watershed that the project is in according to Table 3.1. Stormwater design criteria for the development follows the watershed area in which it is located. Next, determine the square feet of impervious area to be created, added or replaced as a part of the development or redevelopment. Does it equal or exceed 5,000 square feet? Or will the project disturb greater than 1 acre? If the answer is "yes" to either of these questions, the project plan must meet the requirements for stormwater management in this Manual for their respective watershed area.

2) If a project is a major substantial improvement, it must meet the water quality criteria for its respective watershed protection area to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) or obtain off-site stormwater credit. The terms MEP and off-site stormwater credit are further

explained in Section 2.8 and 2.9 below. Peak control requirements do not apply to major substantial improvement projects.

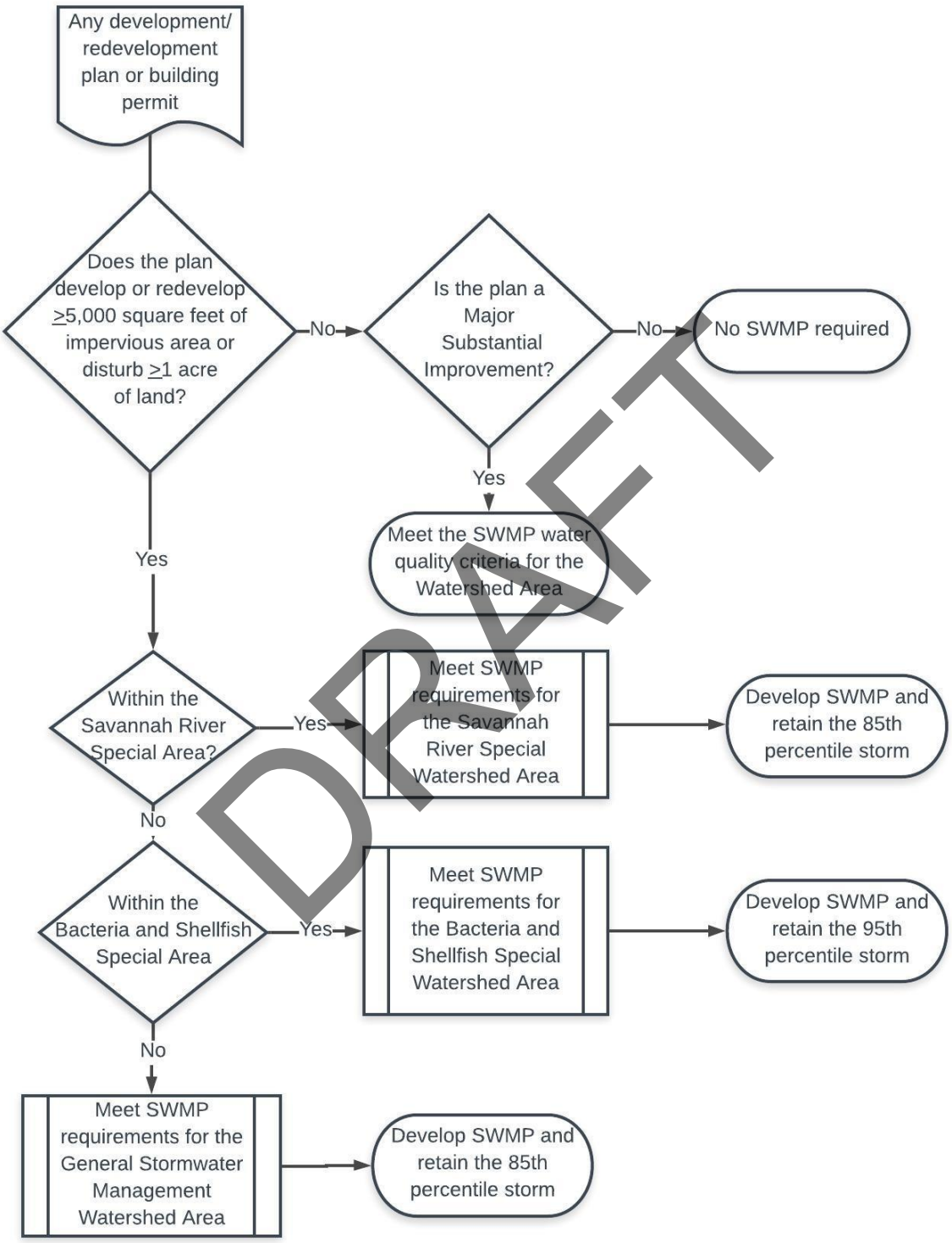

Figure 3.1 Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual applicability diagram

3.3 Infill and Redevelopment

An infill project is one on a previously platted property that may or may not have stormwater management capacity in its original development plan. Regardless of size, infill that is part of a larger common plan of development, even through multiple, separate, and distinct land disturbing activities that may take place at different times and on different schedules must comply with this Manual. Such projects may include Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) that have stormwater systems built that do not meet the requirements of this Manual. If the proposed project meets the applicability criteria of Section 1.4.1, the stormwater plan review in this Manual is necessary. If the development's original stormwater management plan is sufficient to meet the current requirements of this Manual and is documented through approved plans and as-built drawings, or current field measurements and engineering calculations, no further stormwater requirements must be met. When the infill project is part of an original plan that does not meet the current stormwater requirements, the level of stormwater management that is provided in the current development may be credited toward the current volume and hydrologic analysis. Infill locations that, due to the municipal jurisdiction's zoning or land use requirements or site conditions, cannot meet the requirements of this Manual must complete the maximum extent practicable (MEP) evaluation in Section 3.9 for project approval.

Similarly, redevelopment may be credited for the level of stormwater in place. If the redevelopment's original stormwater management plan is sufficient to meet the current requirements of this Manual and is documented through approved plans and as-built drawings, or current field measurements and engineering calculations, no further stormwater requirements must be met. When the redevelopment is part of an original plan that does not meet the current stormwater requirements, the level of stormwater management that is provided in the current development may be credited toward the current volume and hydrologic analysis. Redevelopment projects that, due to the municipal jurisdiction's zoning or land use requirements or site conditions, cannot meet the requirements of this Manual must complete the maximum extent practicable (MEP) evaluation in Section 3.9 for project approval.

3.4 Stormwater Runoff Quality and Peak Discharge Control

Since its inception, the Clean Water Act was designed to address the water quality impacts of stormwater runoff. As it has been applied through successive stormwater permit cycles, the Act's requirements have been interpreted to mean application of stormwater best management practices to the maximum extent practicable. EPA has stated that such conditions include specific tasks or best management practices (BMPs), BMP design requirements, and performance requirements (81 FR 422).

Consistent with the EPA's Phase II MS4 permit, this Manual requires that stormwater runoff shall be adequately treated before it is discharged from a development site. A stormwater management system is assumed to meet the stormwater runoff quality criteria by satisfying the stormwater runoff volume criteria presented in this Manual for its respective Watershed Area. If any of the required stormwater runoff volume cannot be reduced on the site, due to impractical site characteristics or constraints, the following questions shall be addressed in the permitting process:

1. Can the required stormwater volume be obtained from an adjacent site owned or available for stormwater retention purposes;
2. Is there available stormwater retention volume within the adjacent right-of-way and available through fee-in-lieu arrangements within this jurisdiction; and
3. Is a waiver granted based on a maximum extent practicable evaluation?

Further, a stormwater management system is presumed to comply with these criteria if:

- It intercepts and treats stormwater runoff in stormwater management practices that have been selected, designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with this Manual;
- It is provided with documentation to show that total suspended solids, nitrogen and bacteria removal were considered during the selection of the stormwater management practices that will be used to intercept and treat stormwater runoff on the development site;
- It is designed to provide the amount of stormwater load reduction specified in the latest edition of this Manual; and
- It manages the peak flow and extreme flood event storms in accordance with this Manual.

3.5 Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Management Performance Requirements

Stormwater management requirements of this Manual are intended to enhance the quality of development, protect and enhance stormwater quality and management, protect aquatic resources from the negative impacts of the land development process, address water quality impairments or a total maximum daily load, as identified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), or address localized flooding issues.

3.5.1 Watershed Protection Area Designations

Not all watersheds of the Southern Lowcountry region require the same level of post-construction stormwater management. Currently, three watershed protection areas are designated with specific unique stormwater management requirements based on the current and anticipated water quality control measures for their contributing watersheds. The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Ordinance provides the *<local jurisdiction>* the flexibility and authority to designate subwatersheds or drainage areas as Special Watershed Protection Areas that lead to more restrictive requirements or special criteria. Such special designations and criteria will be provided as Appendix P to this Manual.

In the Southern Lowcountry, impairments include recreational water use impairment from bacteria (*Enterococcus* for saltwater and *E. coli* for freshwater), aquatic life use impairment from turbidity or dissolved oxygen, and shellfish harvesting use impairment from fecal coliform bacteria. Stormwater best management practices for these types of impairments include erosion and sediment control for turbidity impairments, illicit discharge detection, vegetated conveyances, vegetated buffers, pet waste programs, and post-construction runoff control. Currently, Southern Lowcountry water quality impairments do not include nutrient impairments, but nutrients can also be addressed through erosion and sediment control and the stormwater best management practices outlined in this Manual.

Most of Beaufort County and the lower reaches of the Jasper County watersheds have shellfish receiving waters or are recreational waters and are therefore sensitive to bacteria impairments. Land development and redevelopment projects in these watersheds require greater scrutiny to ensure that low impact development methods are designed, implemented and maintained to be protective of these water uses.

Watersheds tributary to the Savannah River in the Southern Lowcountry include most of the fresh water wetlands of the region. River water quality is excellent and is a supply for drinking water for the City of Savannah and the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority. Savannah River impairments downstream of the I-95 bridge are primarily aquatic life use due to low dissolved oxygen. Since the

Savannah River is the boundary of Georgia and South Carolina, it is reasonable to align stormwater requirements within Jasper County with those in Chatham and Effingham Counties, GA. Stormwater permits for the Georgia jurisdictions require use of the Georgia Coastal Stormwater Supplement to the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, which is primarily a green infrastructure/low impact development (GI/LID) design manual with requirements specific to the Georgia coastal counties.

The remaining watersheds of the Southern Lowcountry are more upland areas and in agricultural or silvicultural use or are conservation lands. For these areas new development is subject to stormwater management requirements similar to previous county requirements. This Manual unifies stormwater management standards across the designated watersheds rather than differing across county or jurisdictional lines.

The map in Figure 3.2 outlines the boundaries of the three watershed protection areas of the Southern Lowcountry. Requirements specific to each area are further developed in this chapter. Table 3.1 lists the US Geological Survey 12-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-12) for the watersheds in each area. To identify a site's HUC-12, refer to the South Carolina DHEC Watershed Atlas, available online at https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/watersheds/. After identifying the site's HUC 12, use Table 3.1 to identify the watershed protection area.

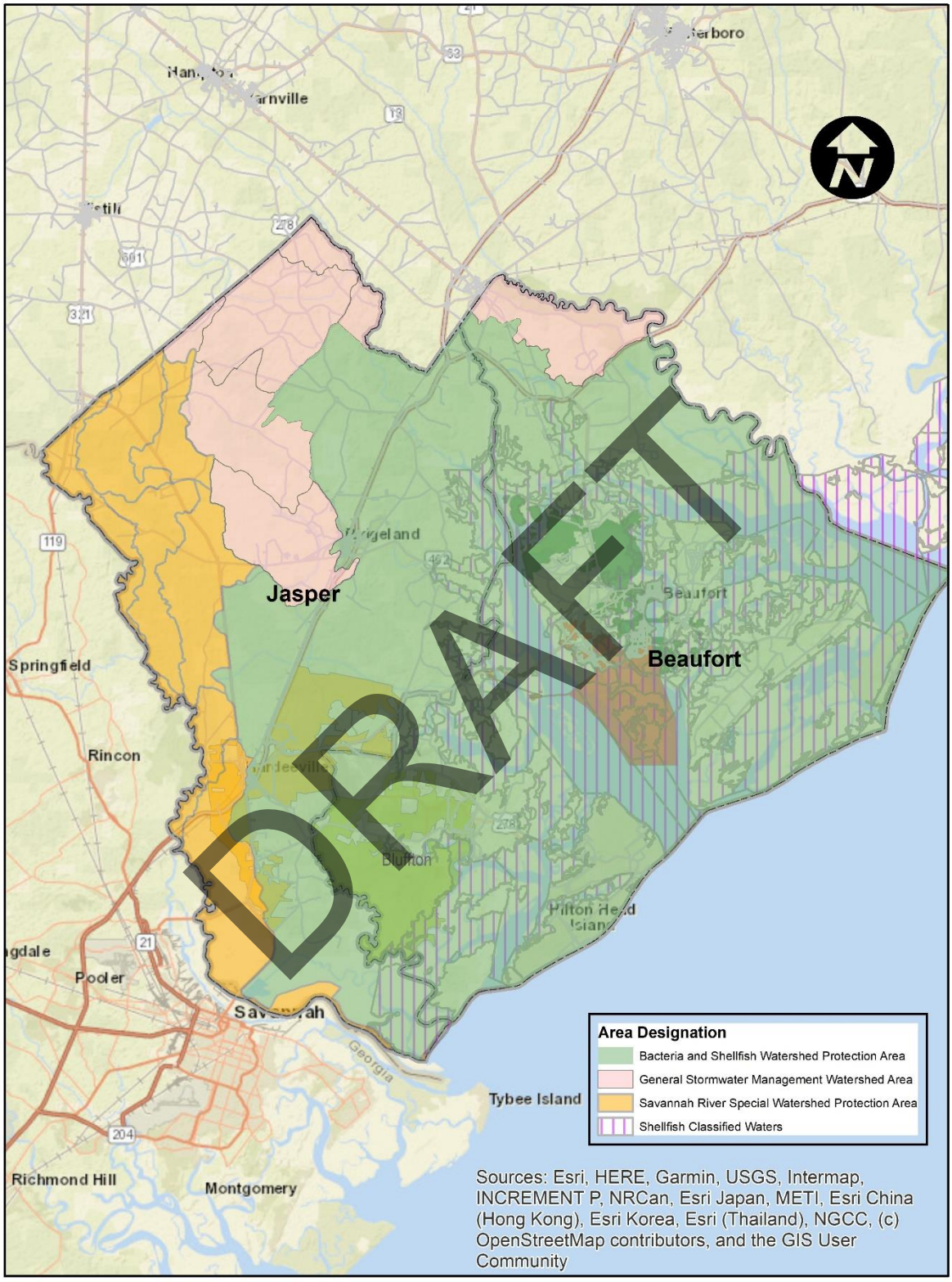

Figure 3.2 Watershed Protection Areas of the Southern Lowcountry

Table 3.1 Watershed Protection Area HUC 12 Codes

General Stormwater Management Watershed Areas		Savannah River Watershed Protection Area	
HUC 12 No.	**Watershed Name**	**HUC 12 No.**	**Watershed Name**
030502070704	Middle Combahee River	030601090107	Hog Branch-Savannah River
030502080301	Johns Pen Creek	030601090301	Cypress Branch
030502080302	Cypress Creek	030601090302	Black Swamp
030502080404	Mcpherson Creek-Coosawhatchie River	030601090303	Coleman Run
030502080405	Early Branch-Coosawhatchie River	030601090304	Sand Branch
030601100101	Gillison Branch	030601090305	Dasher Creek-Savannah River
030601100102	Upper Great Swamp	030601090307	Outlet Savannah River
Bacteria and Shellfish Watershed Protection Area			
HUC 12 No.	**Watershed Name**	**HUC 12 No.**	**Watershed Name**
030502070706	Lower Combahee River	030502080605	Boyd Creek-Broad River
030502071101	Wimbee Creek	030502080606	Colleton River
030502071102	Coosaw River	030502080607	Chechessee River
030502071103	Morgan River	030502080608	Broad River-Port Royal Sound
030502071104	Coosaw River-St. Helena Sound	030502100101	Harbor River-St. Helena Sound
030502080406	Bees Creek	030502100102	Harbor River-Trenchards Inlet
030502080407	Tulifiny River-Coosawhatchie River	030601090306	Wright River
030502080501	Battery Creek	030601100103	Lower Great Swamp
030502080502	Upper Beaufort River-Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway	030601100201	Upper New River-Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway
030502080503	Lower Beaufort River-Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway	030601100202	Lower New River-Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway
030502080601	Pocotaligo River-Broad River	030601100301	May River
030502080602	Huspa Creek	030601100302	Broad Creek
030502080603	Whale Branch	030601100303	Cooper River-Calibogue Sound
030502080604	Euhaw Creek	030601100304	Calibogue Sound

3.5.2 Overall Performance Requirements

Based on the watershed water quality criteria, its impairment status, or stormwater permit requirements, development and redevelopment stormwater management performance requirements will differ. These requirements are interpreted in terms of sizing and performance criteria. Table 3.2 presents a summary of the sizing criteria used to achieve the stormwater management performance requirements for each watershed protection area.

Table 3.2 Watershed Area Overall Performance Requirements

General Stormwater Management Watershed Protection Areas	Savannah River Watershed Protection Area
Overall Performance Requirements	Overall Performance Requirements
• Water Quality: Implement Better Site Design, maintain pre-development hydrology of the site to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) for the 85th percentile storm event. • Peak Control: Control post-development peak runoff discharge rate to pre-development rate for: 2-, 10-, 25- and 50-year, 24-hour design storm events. • Accommodate the 100-year, 24-hour storm event conveyance through the site and downstream without causing damage/inundation to structures. Provide 10% rule analysis. • As a pollutant removal minimum, intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume to at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids load, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load. • Complete a natural resources inventory for new site development applications.	• Water Quality: Implement Better Site Design, retain the 85th percentile storm event onsite to the MEP or obtain off-site credit. • Peak Control: Control post-development peak runoff discharge rate to pre-development rate for: 2-, 10-, 25-, and 50-year, 24-hour design storm events. • Accommodate the 100-year, 24-hour storm event conveyance through the site and downstream without causing damage/inundation to structures. Provide 10% rule analysis. • As a pollutant removal minimum, intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume to at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids load, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load, and intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume generated by the 0.6-inch rainfall event on the development site. • Complete a natural resources inventory for new site development applications.
Rationale	Rationale
The previous Jasper County stormwater design manual specified these overall performance requirements.	The Savannah River watershed adjoins Georgia counties that are subject to similar overall performance requirements as outlined in the Georgia Coastal Stormwater Supplement.
Bacteria and Shellfish Watershed Protection Area	
Overall Performance Requirements	
• Water Quality: Implement Better Site Design and retain the 95th percentile storm on-site with approved infiltration/filtering BMPs. Fulfill MEP requirements or, as a last resort, fulfill off-site credit and/or fee-in-lieu requirements. • As a pollutant removal minimum, intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume to at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids load, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load.	• Peak control: Control the post-development peak runoff discharge rate for the 2, 10, 25-, and 50-year, 24-hour design storm events to the pre-development discharge rates. • Accommodate the 100-year, 24-hour storm event conveyance through the site and downstream without causing damage/inundation to structures. Provide 10% rule analysis. • Complete a natural resources inventory for new site development applications.
Rationale	
The Bacteria and Shellfish Watershed Protection Areas are either impaired or have TMDLs, or the receiving waters are classified for shellfish harvesting. These watersheds require greater protection due to their Clean Water Act status or water quality classification. The site's natural resource inventory is a necessary component of permit application.	

3.5.3 Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Precipitation and Runoff

As in the natural environment, a site's stormwater runoff volume depends upon soil conditions and land cover. To evaluate each site's development plan, this Manual relies on the rainfall runoff estimating methods of the Natural Resources Conservation Service National Engineering Handbook (NEH). Sometimes referred to as the curve number method or soil cover complex method, NEH chapter 9 describes the runoff response to rainfall events based on hydrologic soil group (HSG A, B, C or D) and land cover type with an integer between 29 and 100 (NRCS, 2004). Accordingly, information documenting the site's soils, their permeability, predeveloped land use or natural cover, and post-developed land cover, as well as the shallow groundwater table, are required in development plans in order to review and permit the development activity.

Precipitation event size and distribution are also set by this Manual for the three watershed protection areas that make up the Southern Lowcountry.

The precipitation event distribution terms used in this Manual are defined as follows:

> **85th Percentile Storm –**is the 24-hour rainfall amount that according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records for the past 30 years in which 85% of all rainfall events do not exceed at the nearest US Weather Service station to the County seat. For the General Stormwater Management Watershed Areas and the Savannah River Watershed Protection Areas, this number is 1.16 inches of rainfall.
>
> **95th Percentile Storm –**is the 24-hour rainfall amount that according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records for the past 30 years in which 95% of all rainfall events do not exceed at the nearest US Weather Service station to the County seat. For the Bacteria and Shellfish Watershed Protection Areas this is 1.95 inches of rainfall.

Plans submitted for new development or redevelopment must demonstrate through accepted hydrologic methods that the development at post-construction will attenuate and treat the prescribed storm events. This includes volume reduction, peak flow management and extreme flood protection both on site and downstream.

3.5.4 Savannah River Watershed Protection Area

Upon implementation of this Manual, any applicable new development, redevelopment or major substantial improvement in the designated HUC-12 watersheds that are part of the Savannah River watershed shall meet the following requirements:

- Complete a natural resources inventory for new site development applications.
- Document use of Better Site Design.
- Retain the 85th percentile storm event onsite to the MEP or obtain off-site credit.
- Control the post-development peak runoff discharge rate for the 2, 10, 25-, and 50-year, 24-hour design storm events to the pre-development discharge rates.
- Accommodate 100-year, 24-hour storm event through the development without causing damage to the on-site and offsite structures. Provide 10% rule analysis.
- At a minimum, intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume to at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids load, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load, and intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume generated by the 0.6-inch rainfall event on the development site.

3.5.5 Bacteria and Shellfish Watershed Protection Area

Upon implementation of this Manual, any applicable new development, redevelopment or major substantial improvement in the designated HUC-12 watersheds that are part of the Bacteria and Shellfish Watershed Protection Area shall meet the following requirements:

- Complete a natural resources inventory for new site development applications.
- Document use of Better Site Design.
- Retain the 95th percentile storm on-site with approved infiltration/filtering BMPs.
- Fulfill MEP requirements or, as a last resort, fulfill off-site credit and/or fee-in-lieu requirements.
- At a minimum, intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume to at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids load, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load.
- Control the post-development peak runoff discharge rate for the 2, 10, 25-, and 50-year, 24-hour design storm events to the pre-development discharge rates.
- Accommodate the 100-year, 24-hour storm event conveyance through the site and downstream without causing damage/inundation to structures. Provide 10% rule analysis.

3.5.6 General Stormwater Management Watershed Area

Upon implementation of this Manual, any applicable new development, redevelopment or major substantial improvement in the designated HUC-12 watersheds for the General Stormwater Management Watershed Area shall meet the following requirements:

- Complete a natural resources inventory for new site development applications.
- Document use of Better Site Design.
- Maintain pre-development hydrology of the site to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) for the 85th percentile storm event.
- Control post-development peak runoff discharge rate for the 2-, 10-, 25- and 50-year, 24-hour design storm events to pre-development discharge rates.
- Accommodate 100-year, 24-hour storm event through the development without causing damage to the on-site and offsite structures.
- As a pollutant removal minimum, intercept and treat stormwater runoff volume to at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids load, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load.

3.5.7 Runoff Reduction and Pollutant Removal

It is the minimum criteria of this Manual that a site's stormwater best management practices shall retain the precipitation event size for its watershed protection area as summarized in Section 3.5.2. Through successive application of the practices below and that are described in detail in Chapter 4, provide at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids loads, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load, and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load (Jasper County, 2011).

Stormwater best management practices, when built according to the standards in Chapter 4 and maintained according to the site's maintenance agreement, can be expected to achieve runoff reduction and pollutant removal efficiencies according to Table 3.3 Pollutant Removal Efficiencies of Structural BMPs. These values are to be used in the pollutant removal documentation and are used within the stormwater runoff reduction calculator in Appendix H. Other water quality credits may be assigned for

BMPs based on the determination by the *<local jurisdiction>* and valid study results presented with the Stormwater Management Plan submittal.

Table 3.3 Pollutant Removal Efficiencies of Structural BMPs

BMP	Water Quality Credits			
	Runoff Reduction	TSS % Removal	Total N % Removal	Bacteria % Removal
Bioretention - No Underdrain	100%[1]	100%[1]	100%[6]	100%[6]
Bioretention – Internal Water Storage	75%[1]	85%[1]	85%[4]	80%[5]
Bioretention - Standard	60%[2]	85%[1]	75%[4]	80%[5]
Permeable Pavement - Enhanced	100%[1]	100%[1]	100%[6]	100%[6]
Permeable Pavement - Standard	30%[2]	80%[1]	45%[4]	30%[6]
Infiltration	100%[1]	100%[1]	100%[6]	100%[6]
Green Roof	100%[3]	100%[6]	100%[6]	100%[6]
Green Roof - Irrigated	50%[3]	50%[6]	50%[6]	50%[6]
Rainwater Harvesting	100%[3]	100%[6]	100%[6]	100%[6]
Impervious Surface Disconnection	40%[2]	80%[1]	40%[4]	40%[6]
Grass Channel	10%[2]	50%[1]	25%[4]	30%[5]
Grass Channel - Amended Soils	20%[2]	50%[1]	35%[4]	30%[5]
Dry Swale	60%[2]	85%	70%[4]	80%[5]
Wet Swale	0%[1]	80%[1]	25%[4]	60%[5]
Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance	0%[1]	80%[1]	40%[6]	80%[6]
Filtering Systems	0%[3]	80%[1]	30%[4]	80%[6]
Storage Practices	0%[3]	60%[1]	10%[4]	60%[5]
Stormwater Ponds	0%[1]	80%[1]	30%[4]	60%[5]
Stormwater Wetlands	0%[1]	80%[1]	25%[4]	60%[5]
Tree Planting and Preservation	see section 4.12			
Proprietary Practices	see section 4.13 and Appendix K			
Conservation Areas	see section 4.14			

Notes:

The following resources were used to develop the runoff reduction and pollutant removal values in the above table.

1. (ARC, 2016).
2. (Hirschman, 2018).
3. (DOEE. 2013)
4. (Hirschman, 2018). Nitrogen removal values from this source were applied to the remaining volume after runoff reduction was applied. The values provided in the table above represent the results of this application.
5. (Chesapeake Stormwater Network, 2018)
6. Best professional judgement was used where a BMP's pollutant removal values were not available in the above sources, or conflicts were present. In all cases, a BMP's runoff reduction value must be at least as high as its runoff reduction values (for example, if a BMP is assigned a runoff reduction value of 100%, it

will also have TSS, nitrogen, and bacteria removal rates of 100%). In addition, it was assumed that an RSC will have similar nitrogen removal to bioretention systems, so the nitrogen removal value from the Runoff Reduction Method was applied as described in reference 4, above. It was also assumed that both RSCs and filtering systems will have the same bacterial removal rate as bioretention (with no runoff reduction).

3.6 Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Requirements

The design and management of construction site runoff control measures for all qualifying developments as defined in the Ordinance shall be in accordance with SCDHEC NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities, the SCDHEC Erosion and Sediment Reduction and Stormwater Management regulations and its most current version of standards, where applicable. The <*local jurisdiction*> reserves the right to require additional erosion and sediment control or a higher standard of measure and make their requirement a condition of a development permit approval.

3.7 Retention Standard and Volume

This section provides the formulas and rationale for use of the runoff reduction method to compare predeveloped and post-development hydrology for projects submitted for approval to the Southern Lowcountry jurisdictions.

Runoff reduction is defined as "the total annual runoff volume reduced through canopy interception, soil infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, rainfall harvesting, engineered infiltration, or extended infiltration" (Hirschman, 2008). The formula to calculate the volume reduced through successive application of stormwater best management practices originates with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) method of estimating direct runoff from storm rainfall and the curve number method of NEH Chapter 9 (NEH, 2004). As shown in Equation 2.1 – 2.5, rainfall event runoff (Q) is a function of depth of event rainfall (P) over the watershed, the initial abstraction (I_a) and the maximum potential retention (S).

$$\boldsymbol{Q = \frac{(P - I_a)^2}{(P - I_a) + S}}$$

$$\boldsymbol{I_a = 0.2S}$$

$$\boldsymbol{Q = \frac{(P - 0.2S)^2}{(P + 0.8S)}}$$

$$\boldsymbol{Q - R = \frac{(P - 0.2S)^2}{(P = 0.8S)}}$$

Where:

$$\boldsymbol{S = \frac{100}{CN} - 1}$$

- Q = runoff depth (in)
- P = depth of rainfall event for the designated watershed protection area (85^{th} or 95^{th} percentile rain event)
- I_a = initial abstraction (in)

S = potential maximum retention after runoff begins (in)
CN = Runoff Curve Number
R = Retention storage provided by runoff reduction practices (in)

Not all stormwater BMPs provide runoff reduction equally. Through the crediting procedures of the Compliance Calculator found in Appendix H and the retention volumes required in this section, designers will be able to evaluate their proposed designs and submit for approval in a unified process across the Southern Lowcountry jurisdictions.[1]

Supplemental information on the terms below can be found in the *Low Impact Development in Coastal South Carolina: Planning and Design Guide*, and the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (Ellis, K. et al., 2014; ARC, 2016).

The Stormwater Retention Volume (SWRv) is the volume of stormwater runoff that is required to be retained, post-development. It is calculated as shown in Equation 2.1 for the entire site and for each site drainage area (SDA). The SDA is defined as the area that drains to a single discharge point from the site or sheet flows from a single area of the site. A development site may have multiple SDAs and runoff coefficients.

Equation 0.1 Stormwater Retention Volume

$$\boldsymbol{SWRv = \frac{P \times [(Rv_I \times I) + (Rv_C \times C) + (Rv_N \times N)]}{12}}$$

where:

SWRv = volume required to be retained (cubic feet)
P = depth of rainfall event for the designated watershed protection area (85th or 95th percentile rain event)
Rv_I = runoff coefficient for impervious cover and BMP cover based on SCS hydrologic soil group (HSG) or soil type
I = impervious cover surface area (ft^2)
Rv_C = runoff coefficient for compacted cover based on soil type
C = compacted cover surface area (ft^2)
Rv_N = runoff coefficient for forest/open space based on soil type
N = natural cover surface area (ft^2)
12 = conversion factor, converting inches to feet

	Rv Coefficients			
	A soils	**B Soils**	**C Soils**	**D Soils**
Forest/Open Space (R_{VN})	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05
Managed Turf (Rv_C)	0.15	0.20	0.22	0.25
Impervious Cover (R_{vI})	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95
BMP	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95

[1] Compliance Calculator instructions are found in Appendix G

The surface area of a non-infiltrating BMP or its permanent pool shall be calculated as part of the impervious cover.

The Compliance Calculator in Appendix H uses best available pollutant removal efficiencies for total suspended solids, total nitrogen and fecal indicator bacteria. Use of the compliance calculator allows the designer to evaluate alternative designs to arrive at compliance with the runoff reduction and pollutant removal requirements and clearly summarize them for the local plan reviewer. The compliance calculator output is a necessary submittal for a plan reviewer to evaluate selected BMPs to demonstrate compliance with the watershed protection area standards of this Manual.

3.7.1 Total Suspended Solids, Nutrients and Bacteria

The minimum pollutant removal performance requirements for all watersheds of the Southern Lowcountry include the interception and treatment of stormwater runoff volume to at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids load, 30 percent reduction of total nitrogen load, and 60 percent reduction in bacteria load. These requirements are established for the following reasons.

Stormwater in the Lowcountry conveys the plant nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus. Nitrogen tends to dissolve in water, but phosphorus is adsorbed to suspended solids predominantly. Control of total suspended solids through the BMPs in this Manual will also remove a proportional amount of phosphorus. Relying on the judgement of stormwater researchers and other state design manuals, the approach for the Southern Lowcountry is similar (NCDEQ, 2014). If a BMP is effective at runoff reduction or retention of stormwater, it is similarly effective at removal of the initial volume of suspended solids.

Many of the Southern Lowcountry watersheds at the HUC-12 size are directly tributary to bacteria and shellfish impaired waters. As these watersheds develop with rooftops, roads and other impervious surfaces, there is an increasing potential for bacteria in the stormwater from wildlife populations (deer, racoons, waterfowl), pet waste, septic system discharges and sanitary sewer system malfunctions. Similarly, nutrients can be expected to increase due to fertilizer use in erosion control practices, managed turf and landscaping, septic system leachate, and atmospheric deposition on impervious surfaces. Best management practices, along with better site design practices, can be used to reduce bacteria and nutrients in stormwater to the benefit and restoration of Southern Lowcountry water quality.

3.7.2 Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis

In order to prevent an increase in the duration, frequency and magnitude of downstream overbank flooding and scouring, this Manual requires that enough stormwater detention be provided on a development site to control the post-development peak runoff discharge to the predevelopment runoff rates for the 2, 10, 25, and the 50-year, 24-hour storm events. The capacity of the existing downstream receiving conveyance system for all off-site discharge points must be determined to be adequate and/or upgraded to convey the 25-yr storm flows, and shown to have no impact on proposed or existing downstream structures for the 100-yr storm overflow path. Documentation supporting safe passage of the 100-yr post development flow to the downstream point where the detention or storage area comprises 10% of the total drainage area, and an analysis of the surrounding neighborhood area to identify any existing capacity shortfalls or drainage blockages is required for plan approval. This analysis is called the 10% analysis rule in Section 3.8 of this Manual (ARC, 2016).

The recommended 2, 10, 25, 50 and 100-year, 24-hour storm event values from Appendix F of the South Carolina DHEC Storm Water Management BMP Handbook, July 31, 2005 for Beaufort and Jasper Counties are in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4 Rainfall Depth (inches) for the Southern Lowcountry

Return Period (years)					
County	**2**	**10**	**25**	**50**	**100**
Beaufort	4.5	6.9	8.4	9.7	11.0
Jasper	4.2	6.4	7.8	9.0	10.2

In this Manual, Appendix I General Design Criteria and Guidelines provides the acceptable methodologies and computer models for estimating runoff hydrographs before and after development, as well as design criteria for stormwater collection systems and land cover designations. The following are the acceptable methodologies and computer models for estimating runoff hydrographs before and after development. These methods are used to predict the runoff response from given rainfall information and site surface characteristic conditions. The design storm frequencies used in all of the hydrologic engineering calculations will be based on design storms required in this guidebook unless circumstances make consideration of another storm intensity criterion appropriate:

- Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds TR-55
- Storage-Indication Routing
- HEC-1, WinTR-55, TR-20, and SWMM Computer Models

These methods are given as valid in principle and are applicable to most stormwater management design situations in the Southern Lowcountry.

The following conditions should be assumed when developing predevelopment, pre-project, and post-development hydrology, as applicable:

- The design storm duration shall be the 24-hour rainfall event, using the NRCS (SCS) Type III rainfall distribution with a maximum six-minute time increment.
- The predeveloped peaking factor shall be 200 for new development (Blair, A., et al., 2012).
- The post development peaking factor shall be 323.
- For new development sites the predeveloped condition shall be calculated as a composite CN based on the HSG and meadow conditions (NEH, 2004).
- For infill and redevelopment sites, the predeveloped condition shall be calculated as a composite CN based on the HSG and the land cover type and hydrologic condition at the time of the project's initial submittal.
- Antecedent Moisture Condition (AMC) III or Antecedent Runoff Condition (ARC) III is required for calculations using TR-55.

Project designs must include supporting data and source information. All storm sewer systems shall be analyzed for both inlet and outlet control (including tailwater effects) by using the following:

a. Equations and nomographs as shown in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Hydraulic Design Services (HDS) publication No. 5.

b. Computer programs that calculate the actual hydraulic grade line for the storm sewer system can be used, provided all losses (friction, bend, junction, etc.) are taken into account using the appropriate loss coefficient (K) values.

c. Design tailwater condition elevation shall be supported by a reasonable resource and/or analysis.

d. Allowable headwater. The allowable headwater of all culverts, pipe systems and open channels shall be established as the 25-yr, 24-hr storm. The allowable headwater of bridges and roadway culverts shall be established as the 100-yr, 24-hr storm. When endwalls are used, the headwater shall not exceed the top of the endwall at the entrance for the design storm. If the top of the endwall is inundated during any storm less than the 100-year storm, special protection of the roadway embankment and/or ditch slope may be necessary for erosion protection.

All culverts, pipe systems, and open channel flow systems shall be sized in accordance with the design criteria found in Appendix I Hydrology and Hydraulics Design Requirements.

3.7.3 Maintenance Easements

Maintenance easements are provided for the protection and legal maintenance of stormwater management facilities not within a right-of-way. Drainage easements shall be required in subdivisions over any portion of a stormwater management facilities not within a right-of-way and necessary for the functioning of the system. Drainage easements for all facilities must be shown on construction drawings and approved by the stormwater manager. The easements shall be designated on the plan prior to issuance of a development permit and recorded in public records with copy of recorded easement submitted prior to <*local jurisdiction*> permit termination. The minimum allowable width of drainage easements shall be as shown in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 Drainage Maintenance Access Easements

Stormwater Management Facility	Minimum Easement Width
Closed systems (storm sewers/pipes/culverts)	diameter + 4 ft + 2D(20-ft minimum)*
Open drainage systems	
Bottom width 20 ft or less	15 ft + BW + 2SD (30 ft minimum)**
Bottom width 20 ft to 40 ft	30 ft + BW + 2SD**
Bottom width greater than 40 ft	40 ft + BW + 2SD**
Retention/detention BMPs	20 ft around facility***
Pond Maintenance Access	A 20' maintenance access easement between lot lines and top of bank shall be provided for stormwater ponds with a permanent pool. The easement shall be provided for boat trailer access, and for all structure maintenance and repair.
*Where: D = Depth from grade to pipe invert **Where: BW = Bottom width S = Side slope D = Depth of opening	
Note: The minimum required width and configuration of drainage easements may be modified if deemed necessary by the stormwater manager for justifiable reasons.	

3.8 Extreme Flood Requirement - 10% Rule

The peak discharge generated by the 100-year, 24-hour storm event under post-development conditions is considered the extreme peak discharge. The intent of the extreme flood protection is to prevent flood damage from infrequent but large storm events, maintain the boundaries of the mapped 100-year floodplain, and protect the physical integrity of the best management practices as well as downstream stormwater and flood control facilities. The 100-yr flow is to be used in the routing of runoff through the drainage system and stormwater management facilities to determine the effects on the facilities, adjacent property, and downstream. Emergency spillways of best management practices should be designed appropriately to pass the resulting flows safely.

Documentation supporting safe passage of the 100-year post-development flow shall be provided by the applicant/engineer. In order to prevent an increase in the duration, frequency and magnitude of downstream extreme flooding over existing conditions, an evaluation must be provided to include downstream analysis to the point where the project comprises 10% of the total contributing drainage area. The 10% rule evaluation must address existing conveyance system capacity and "pinch points" where a pipe/culvert would be overtopped and where the pipe/culvert will need to be upgraded or the peak discharge rate will need to be limited to the capacity of the downstream system.

The 10% rule recognizes the fact that a structural BMP control providing detention has a "zone of influence" downstream where its effectiveness can be felt. Beyond this zone of influence, the structural control becomes relatively small and insignificant compared to the runoff from the total drainage area at that point. Based on studies and master planning results from a large number of sites, that zone of influence is considered to be the point where the drainage area controlled by the detention or storage facility comprises 10% of the total drainage area. For example, if the drainage control drains 10 acres, the zone of influence ends at a point where the total drainage area is 100 acres or greater (ARC, 2016).

Demonstration of safe passage of the 100-year, 24-hour storm shall include a stage storage analysis of the system, an inflow/outflow comparison of the system, and construction of a table showing peak stage elevations in comparison to safe freeboards to structures of the system and adjacent buildings/structures/infrastructure. Safe passage to the receiving water also requires that there be no additional downstream flooding or other environmental impacts (e.g., stream channel enlargement, degradation of habitat).

Typical steps in the application of the 10% rule are:

1. Determine the target peak flow for the site for predevelopment conditions.
2. Using a topographic map, determine the lower limit of the zone of influence (10% point)
3. Using a hydrologic model, determine the predevelopment peak flows and timing of those peaks at each tributary junction beginning at the pond outlet and ending at the next tributary junction beyond the 10% point.
4. Change land use on the site to post-development and rerun the model.
5. Design the structural control facility such that the overbank flood protection (25-year) post-development flow is adequately conveyed to the lower limit of the zone of influence and the Extreme Flood (100-year) post-development flow does not impact any existing structures within the area of zone of influence.
6. If the overbank flood protection (25-year) post-development flow is not adequately conveyed to the lower limit of the zone of influence and/or Extreme Flood (100-year) post-development flow is shown to impact any structure, the structural control facility must be redesigned or one of the following options considered:
    a. Work with the *<local jurisdiction>* to reduce the flow elevation through channel or flow conveyance structure improvements downstream
    b. Obtain a flow easement from downstream property owners to the 10% point
    c. Request a detention waiver from *<local jurisdiction>.* This waiver would be for water quantity control only and best management practices to achieve water quality goals will still be required.

3.9 Maximum Extent Practicable

Maximum extent practicable, or "MEP," is the language of the Clean Water Act that sets the standards to evaluate efforts pursued to achieve pollution reduction to the Waters of the United States. MEP refers to management practices; control techniques; and system, design, and engineering methods for the control of pollutants. It allows for considerations of public health risks, societal concerns, and social benefits, along with the gravity of the problem and the technical feasibility of solutions. MEP for stormwater management is achieved, in part, through a process of selecting and implementing different design options with various structural and non-structural stormwater best management practices (BMPs), where ineffective BMP options may be rejected, and replaced when more effective BMP options are found (DOEE, 2019).

There must be a serious and demonstrated attempt to comply with this Manual, and practical solutions may not be lightly rejected. If project applicants implement and demonstrate only a few of the least expensive BMPs, and the regulated volume has not been retained, it is likely that the MEP standard has not been met. If, on the other hand, a project applicant implements all applicable and effective BMPs

except those shown to be technically infeasible, then the project applicant would have achieved retention to the MEP.

Major land-disturbing activities, infill and redevelopment projects, and projects in the existing public right-of-way, must achieve the SWRv, and meet peak flow requirements for channel and extreme flood protection to the MEP. Through application of stormwater best management practices on site or at an off-site property within the same stormwater drainage catchment, land development projects should be able to comply with the Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Ordinance. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate to the greatest extent that the requirements of this Manual can be met for the proposed development. The applicant must fully demonstrate that the requirements of the Manual are not possible or feasible before entering into a MEP analysis, and only after the concurrence of the *<local jurisdiction>* based on the project submittals, documentation and discussions. The applicant must realize that if the requirements of the Manual cannot be met, the site may not be conducive for development, as proposed, in the interest of public safety and welfare.

When a new land development project, infill or redevelopment cannot meet the volume and peak flow requirements of this Manual, the following design and review process is required to comply with the MEP requirement. This evaluation is intended to be completed during the concept review stage of plan development.

1) Demonstrate how BSD has been implemented to the maximum extent practicable or document site restrictions that prevent BSD application.
2) List the site restrictions that prevent the onsite use of the stormwater BMPs of this Manual.
3) Cite justification for not being able to retain the SWRv and attain the required peak discharge limits.
4) Is there off-site capacity in the same drainage catchment as defined by the <local jurisdiction> to meet the volume and/or peak flow requirements for the site's contributing drainage area(s)?
5) Does the publicly maintained stormwater drainage system have sufficient capacity for the development site's extreme flood peak flow?
6) Develop a cost versus aggregated stormwater retention volume achieved curve for the site's contributing drainage area. A minimum of five cost points with three of the BMP alternatives in series as a treatment train are necessary for the curve. Include the evaluation off-site capacity cost. Identify the inflection point of the cost curve to identify the optimal solution where increased cost does not result in increased effectiveness.
7) The optimum aggregated retention value and BMP selection and size analysis must be submitted as a part of the stormwater management plan for the project.
8) Offsite stormwater volume retention credit or fee-in-lieu documents will be required for project completion.

The MEP submittal must provide documentable evidence of the process the applicant has performed that demonstrates the restrictions to the use and implementation of BMPs to meet the requirements of this Manual in whole or in part.

3.10 Off-Site Stormwater Management

All stormwater management design plans shall include on-site stormwater management practices, unless post-construction stormwater runoff in an off-site or regional stormwater management practice is approved according to this Section.

The off-site or regional stormwater management practice must be located on property legally dedicated to that purpose, be designed and sized to meet the post-construction stormwater management criteria presented in this Manual, provide a level of stormwater quality and quantity control that is equal to or greater than that which would be provided by on-site green infrastructure and stormwater management practices, be in the same drainage catchment, as defined by the <local jurisdiction>, as the project area, and have an associated inspection and maintenance agreement and plan. In addition, appropriate stormwater management practices shall be installed, where necessary, to protect properties and drainage channels that are located between the development site and the location of the off-site or regional stormwater management practice.

To be eligible for compliance through the use of off-site stormwater management practices, the applicant must submit a stormwater management design plan to the *<local jurisdiction>* that demonstrates the adequacy of the off-site or regional stormwater management practice, and demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the *<local jurisdiction>* that the off-site or regional stormwater management practice will not result in any of the following impacts:

(1) Increased threat of flood damage or endangerment to public health or safety;

(2) Deterioration of existing culverts, bridges, dams and other structures;

(3) Accelerated streambank or streambed erosion or siltation;

(4) Degradation of in-stream biological functions or habitat; or,

(5) Water quality impairment in violation of state water quality standards and/or violation of any other state or federal regulations.

3.11 Fee-in-Lieu

Fee-in-lieu is, as the name suggests, a program where an entity with the responsibility of managing stormwater runoff pays a fee in lieu of physically managing and maintaining stormwater on site or off site. Based on the cost of treatment, long term maintenance/repair/replacement and inspection costs, a representative cost of treating stormwater can be established, and that money can go to larger scale and more efficient practices being implemented (ARC, 2016). The developer provides a fee to the local jurisdiction (or its assigned entity) that will help cover cost of installation and long term operation and maintenance of the stormwater practice. A fee-in-lieu program can be administered through the <local jurisdiction>, a public/private initiative, or a private bank. Any fee-in-lieu program must have an Enterprise Fund and ability to oversee construction activities (e.g. programs managed by the local jurisdiction) or be able to collect fees and dedicate those funds to stormwater related projects. In-lieu fees typically need to cover higher municipal prevailing wage and public bidding costs. The off-site mitigation practices must be implemented in the same HUC 12 watershed as the original project (or more restrictive limits, at the discretion of the local authority). Therefore, careful accounting must take place to ensure that each site using off-site mitigation to meet pollutant removal requirements has corresponding off-site controls in the same watershed (CWP, 2012).

3.12 Waivers

Individuals seeking a waiver from the requirements of this Ordinance may submit to the *(administrator)* a request for a waiver in accordance with the Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual.

(1) Request of a Waiver at Staff Level
A written request for a waiver is required and shall state the specific waiver sought and the reasons, with supporting data, a waiver should be granted. The request shall include all information necessary to evaluate the proposed waiver. Requests must outline the need for such a waiver, such as site constraints, soil characteristics, or similar engineering limitations. Cost shall not be considered cause for a waiver. The applicant will address the criteria below for consideration of a waiver approval:

a. What exceptional circumstances to the site are evident that on-site or off-site stormwater management requirements cannot be met?
b. What unnecessary hardship is being caused?
c. How will denial of the waiver be inconsistent with the intent of the Ordinance?
d. How will granting the waiver comply with the intent of the Ordinance?
e. How are state and federal regulations still being met?

(2) Review of Waivers
The <*administrator*> will conduct a review of the request and will issue a decision within thirty (30) working days of receiving the request.

(3) Fee in Lieu Requirement
a. If a Waiver is granted, the applicant must submit a fee in lieu of meeting stormwater requirements as determined by <*local jurisdiction*> for regional stormwater management projects.

(4) Appeal of Decision
Any person aggrieved by the decision of the (*administrator*) concerning a waiver request may appeal such decision in accordance with the <*local jurisdiction*> established process.

3.13 References

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