



2022
Issue

HERE'S THE DIRT

Stormwater Compliance Department - Engineering Services Division

How To Save Money on Your Site

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

- Identifying issues BEFORE they become major problems can reduce the construction cost associated with repairing and remediating a problem area.
- The primary method of identifying issues should be through site inspections. An on-site representative should take the time to walk the entire site to identify Best Management Practice (BMP) deficiencies at least once a week looking for erosion issues before rills and gullies appear and BMPs failures. This results in lower costs in repairs and prevents costly delays to fix multiple larger issues.
- It is important for the representative who is inspecting the site to have communication with the site contractors/developer and Columbia County inspectors. A lack of communication results in small issues becoming big problems when easy repairs slip through the cracks. Effective communication can ensure that site deficiencies are fixed in a timely manner before Columbia County inspectors arrive.



Benefits of Early Stabilization

- Stabilizing the site early can save you money in a variety of ways:
 - The green grass looks great to the public and reduces complaints.
 - Stabilizing the site as you go will reduce the time it takes to file for the Notice of Termination (NOT) inspection.
 - Stabilization reduces erosion and can improve the effectiveness of other BMPs and extend their lifetime.



Lessons Learned: Green Infrastructure

Design:

- Properly site structures using pre-construction infiltration tests
- Include details for soil and plantings
- One of many references: GSMM Appendix D – Planting and Soil Guidance (Pg. 627).

Construction:

- Follow the inspection timeline and photo document installation
- If issues arise during post-construction testing or operation this documentation can be used to troubleshoot

Operation & Maintenance:

- Conduct quarterly inspections and needed maintenance
- Common maintenance issues include trash and weed removal
- Ensure landscape contractors understand proper care for the structure
 - Limit chemical application
 - Preserve correct vegetation
- One of many references: GSMM BMP Operations & Maintenance (Pg. 654)

REQUIRED INSPECTIONS FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLATION:

1	Dimensions of Practice	4	Rock &/or Engineered Soil Installation
2	Underdrain Installation**	5	Vegetation Verification & Planting**
3	Verification of Approved Back-Fill Materials	6	Infiltration Test

Marked inspections may not be required for all GI installations



Stream Buffer Protection

Stream buffers naturally protect these waterways by:

- **Serving as a sponge to filter out pollutants**
- **Offering stabilization, via the root systems of the native plants, to prevent erosion on the stream banks.**

Nearly all new construction projects in Columbia County have water resources on or near the area of land disturbance. Current regulations require a protected 25-foot buffer on streams, which should be flagged, avoided, and preserved during construction.

If you are a contractor or developer, you can help prevent downstream impact, avoid violations/fines, and help preserve the stream buffers by:

- Reviewing plans to understand where streams and buffers are located on the property.
- Identifying resources on-site with flagging.
- Install early, inspect routinely, and performance maintenance on erosion control structures, like silt fence, to prevent disturbance in these water resources.