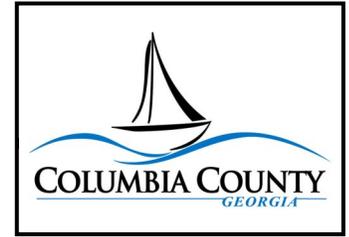


# THE ENVIRO-SOURCE

*The Columbia County Builder's Source for News and Information*



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### Enviro-Source's Mission:

To have development and government work together, to accept nothing less than excellence, by maintaining the water quality, safety, and prosperity of our citizens at the high standard we are most fortunate to have in our area.



## WATER IS ESSENTIAL, THEREFORE KEEP IT GOOD

The Enviro-Source newsletter is published to comply with the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. It offers builders throughout the County some insight and guidance on water quality and associated regulations.

Since land disturbance for commercial and residential development has the potential to impact the water quality of our creeks and streams, we aim to promote education and compliance for sustainable growth. We hope you will take a few minutes to read



through this newsletter and also work with us to keep Columbia County waters clean. Every action makes a

difference; be a good ripple. Our contact information is on page 4.

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WATER QUALITY IS DAMAGED WHEN BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) ARE NOT FOLLOWED

## Existing Vegetation = Free BMP



At the beginning of the project, in order to reduce runoff and erosion issues down the road, conserve existing vegetation. Vegetation stabilizes the soil so particles do not migrate when it rains. For areas that must be disturbed, plant temporary vegetation or apply mulch. Temporary seeding is inexpensive and established vegetation can save you significant maintenance costs and possible environmental violations.



Keep the fish abundant.  
We're in!  
Are you?

**DID YOU KNOW...**

Storm drains are **directly** connected to our water resources. These storm drains are designed to capture and manage runoff during rain events. Sweeping grass clippings, leaves, dirt, or other debris into the road and storm drain is not acceptable because:

- Only rain belongs in the storm drain. Any other items may be considered an illicit discharge.
- Debris can clog storm systems which may cause flooding.
- Pollutants in our waters degrade aquatic life and recreational resources.

Please Remember:

*Bag up grass and leaves and dispose of them properly. What each individual does adds up and makes an impact in our Community.*

*-Thank You-*



## THE ABCS OF PASSING AN NOT INSPECTION

Notice of Termination (NOT) requirements:

According to the 2016 Edition of Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia (Green Book), final stabilization means that all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed, and that for unpaved areas not covered by permanent structures, 100% of the soil surface is uniformly covered in permanent vegetation with a density of at least 70%, or the site has been landscaped according to the approved landscape plan.

Common Q&A:

How do I schedule an NOT inspection?

Provide the County with an Environmental Protection Division (EPD) stamped NOT form or NOT form with certified mail receipt of your NOT submission to EPD. NOT inspections are scheduled in the Stormwater Utility main office for the following business day.

How do I schedule an NOT re-inspection?

If your initial NOT inspection failed call the Stormwater Utility main office, 706-855-7246, to request an NOT re-inspection.

Do pine straw or mulch beds count as permanent stabilization?

No. Pine straw and mulch are considered temporary stabilization and therefore require trees, shrubs, or perennial vines planted throughout.

Please see the Green Book's Table 6-5.3 for ground cover recommendations. This table also includes guidance on plant spacing, coloration, and water and sunlight needs.

Do I have to remove silt fence?

Yes. All temporary BMPs (silt fence, hay bales, compost socks, construction entrances, temporary downdrain structures, etc.) must be removed before final stabilization can be achieved.



Permanent vegetation needed



Passing NOT

## NPDES Inspections for Secondary Permittees

By signing a Notice of Intent (NOI) for home construction you are certifying that the project construction activities will comply with the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The goal of the NPDES permit is to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of Georgia through an Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plan (Plan). The Plan has many components and an important component that is commonly overlooked is the

required inspections. These inspections and corresponding reports must be conducted until a NOT is submitted. Inspections for sites with an active NOI must complete daily, weekly, and sometimes monthly inspections. On a daily basis check for spills and leaks, petroleum storage, and construction outlet (CO) tracking. On a weekly basis AND within 24-hours of a 0.5-inch rain event check all disturbed areas, exposed material storage, and E&S control measures. Once an area has undergone final stabilization or

has an established crop of annual vegetation and a seeding of target perennials inspections of the area and E&S control measures occur monthly.

Inspections should also ascertain whether E&S control measures are effective in preventing significant impacts to receiving waters.

*For more information please see the NPDES Permit for Construction in a Common Development available at:*

<http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/npdes-permits>

## RAIN BARRELS AND CISTERNS

### A GREEN Selling Point

Low Impact Development is a stormwater management approach that works with nature to deal with runoff closer to its source. This is accomplished through a variety of techniques from large scale bioretention facilities to individual lot options such as rain barrels and cisterns. Rain barrels and cisterns reduce the amount of runoff and in large numbers their combined effect may lessen the impact on flooding and pollution in the community. In addition to saving on water usage for irrigation, rain barrels and cisterns that meet criteria in the Stormwater Utility Service Charge Credit Technical Manual can apply for and receive a 20% credit of their monthly stormwater service fee! For residential customers with rain barrels, at least one-half of the downspouts from their roof gutter system must be connected to barrels of at least 40 gallons in size to be eligible for the credit.

One inch of rain on a 1,000-square-foot roof yields approximately 623 gallons of water!



For more information please see the Service Charge Credit Manual available here: <http://www.columbiacountyga.gov/home/showdocument?id=11897>

## CONCRETE WASHOUT



Concrete washouts are used to collect and retain all the concrete washout water and solids in a leak proof container so these caustic materials do

not reach water resources. Washout water contains toxic metals and has a pH of 12 (to put this in perspective, bleach has a pH of 13). For freshwater aquatic habitats the safe pH range is 6.5-9. When a concrete washout is needed it should be placed away from sensitive resources, in a convenient location for concrete

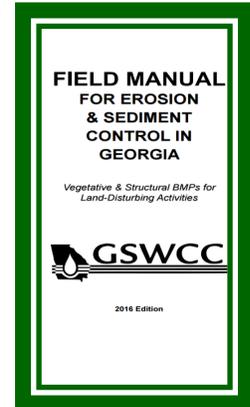
trucks, have adequate signs, and be accompanied with a gravel/rock approach. Once installed, washouts should be inspected daily and after heavy rains. Damages to the container should be repaired promptly. *Tip:* prior to heavy rains cover the washout to prevent overflowing.

## MEET OUR EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL INSPECTION TEAM

County E&S Inspectors spend each day inspecting subdivision, commercial, and individual lot construction sites for compliance with applicable Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plans, State Water Plans, and the Green Book. These inspectors work diligently to prevent impacts to our natural resources and keep roadways safe and clear of construction-related debris. While their message may seem inconvenient at times please understand that they serve to keep the waters of our community clean and healthy.



From left—Dennis Anderson, Will Fulmer, Mike Anderson, Gary Bennett, Dakota Banford, Steve Abbott, Connie Smith, Katie Beth Jennings, and Jason Alicea.



How do I find the *Green Book* online?

Follow these steps:

Go to <https://gaswcc.georgia.gov/>

Then drill down...



Click on *Urban Lands—Erosion and Sediment Control*



*Technical Guidance*



*Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia 2016 Edition*

**Columbia County  
Stormwater Utility and  
Environmental Services  
Department**

Mailing address:  
PO Box 498  
Evans, GA 30809

Phone 706.855.7246  
Fax 706.868.4226  
You can email us at:  
kjennings@columbiacountyga.gov



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)  
**Environmental Services**

**Enviro-Source Staff**

- Gary Bennett.....Stormwater Manager
- Katie Beth Jennings.....Environmental Permit Coordinator
- Mike Anderson .....Environmental Compliance Supervisor
- Randy Fisher.....ES&PC Plan Reviewer
- George Eastman.....SW Plan Reviewer
- Shari Mendrick.....Flood Plain Manager
- Mike Zahner.....SW Operations Manager
- Jac Palmer.....Infrastructure Inspection Supervisor
- Margaret Alligood.....SW Public Education Coordinator



*That is why our motto is:  
Only Rain Down The  
Drain!*

## GSWCC Level 1-A Certification

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) offers a Fundamentals 1A seminar for builders, developers, site superintendents, contractors, grading and utility contractors, and monitoring consultants on the proper installation, maintenance, and inspection of BMPs on construction sites.

Furthermore, completion of this course is one of the best ways to become a "certified personnel". The EPD Notice of Intent requires site inspections (see article on Page 2) be completed by certified personnel.

An individual seeking certification must attend a required training class and pass an examination. There are several organizations throughout the state teaching the classes and administering the certification exams. For more information about certification, visit the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission's website at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov>



*This class is strongly recommended by Georgia EPD and Columbia County.*

### Columbia County Land Disturbance Permit Process

This permit process was designed to provide a clear, straightforward process to obtain county approval for land disturbance.

*An approved Land Disturbance Permit (LDP) application is required for all projects in Columbia County.*

Individuals desiring to conduct land disturbing activities can use the LDP table and supporting checklists to generate an application package based on the project details. Complete Land Disturbance Permit details, to include permit exemptions, can be found in Ordinance Section 34 Article III. Please visit the following webpage for the LDP application, LDP application fee schedule, LDP table, Plan Review Checklists, and Ordinance Section 34 Article III.

<http://columbiacountyga.gov/government-/departments-s-z/stormwater-utility/land-disturbance-permit>

Stormwater Utility staff are available to help you navigate the process and can be reached at 706-855-7246.

Save time and submit electronically! You can submit LDP packages by email to

[LDP@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:LDP@columbiacountyga.gov)

COLUMBIA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT**

CLEARING AND GRADING       MINOR

COUNTY INSPECTOR: \_\_\_\_\_ PROJECT INFORMATION

NOTICE OF VIOLATION #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
NOTICE OF VIOLATION #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NOTE: ALL SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN STOP WORK ORDERS)

\* PROJECT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\* DISTURBED AREA: \_\_\_\_\_

\* PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING: (Y) (N) (NA)  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\* INITIAL INSPECTION PASSED: (Y) (N) (NA)  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\* ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS 200 FEET OF SITE: (Y) (N) (NA)  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMITTEE INFORMATION

\* OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

\* OPERATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\* 24 HOUR CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

\* PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

For any complaints about this site, please call 8-1-1