

FORWARD

This manual represents a concerted effort by a group of knowledgeable and dedicated professionals to provide a comprehensive resource that meets the needs of planners, designers, developers, contractors, inspectors, and homebuilders. Its purpose is to aid land users including developers, contractors, consultants, city, county, and state planners and planning boards, other governmental officials, and homeowners in adequately addressing the soil erosion, siltation, and other water quality problems associated with land disturbing activities and urbanization. Information included in this manual can help land users meet environmental and regulatory objectives.

Erosion and runoff are influenced by the combination of climate, topography, soils, vegetative cover, and the extent of land-disturbing activities. Because topography, soils, and environmental conditions, vary widely from one site to another, the application of the procedures and criteria in the manual should be tailored to local, site-specific conditions and user objectives.

Sediment-laden, turbid stormwater runoff from inadequate erosion controls on construction sites impacts private individuals, our society, and the environment. Sediment related damages occur on-site and off-site if land, water and related resources are degraded. Similar impacts may occur as a result of erosion in urban areas on non-construction sites.

The BMP Manual serves to comply with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) NPDES Permit numbers TNS075566 (City of Chattanooga), TN075761 (Town of Signal Mountain), and TNS075566 (Hamilton County). The following municipalities are included in the Hamilton County permit: Collegedale, East Ridge, Lakesite, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Ridgeside, and Soddy Daisy.

It is the hope of the authors to keep the manual current with changing technology. Although we cannot use the manual to identify and recommend specific products, we recognize that product development will continue and we desire that the manual framework accommodate, usually in a generic context, those products that are needed in the Hamilton County region.

As we look to the future, we urge those that make decisions affecting our land and water resources to voluntarily embrace sound technology and practice strong stewardship of our land and water resources. Regulations are necessary for several reasons, but a conservation ethic that recognizes that our natural resources should be protected during and after development puts the tasks of erosion and sediment control, and water quality treatment and stormwater management in a context that maximizes benefits to all concerned and protects the environment.

Disclaimer

All BMPs contained in this manual are intended to be recommendations on how to meet the local, state, and federal requirements. Responsibility for following all local regulations and laws however falls ultimately on the property owners and permit holders. It should be noted that local requirements included in this manual are incorporated into the local ordinance by reference.

This manual is intended to offer technical guidance. It is not intended to be used as a stand-alone design manual. Engineers and designers of BMPs and stormwater control systems should refer to appropriate engineering, hydrology, and other design manuals to design all BMPs.