WHO WE ARE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Stormwater Environmental Team is ultimately focused on protecting and improving the quality of local bodies of water. This is done by implementing flood control systems, water monitoring, and enforcing water-friendly construction practices that follow Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. Keeping environmental issues in mind, the division strives to keep the city's water safe for recreation as well as usage at home.

VALUES

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to Rockford's creeks and rivers. Clean water means safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to the landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots and lawns into storm sewers and drainage ditches then directly to our streams, rivers and ultimately, the ocean.

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CITY OF ROCKFORD
PUBLIC WORKS
STREET · WATER · ENGINEERING

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EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LOCAL BODIES OF WATER

WHY IS EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL NECESSARY?

Erosion and sediment control is needed to minimize erosion and to prevent sediment (which has contaminants bonded to each particle) from entering into streets, gutters, ditches, lakes, wetlands, rivers and the neighbor's property.

Common construction site pollutants include:

- Sediment (from grading operations) and base soil
- Concrete wash from tools and trucks
- Sanitary waste from portable toilets
- Debris from building materials
- Oil and grease from equipment and vehicles
- Paint, chemicals, and solvents
- Litter

Commonly used erosion and sediment control materials include:

- Erosion control blanket
- Stabilized construction entrance
- Permanent/temporary seeding
- Inlet protection
- Silt fence
- Mulch
- Riprap

WHY CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER?

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WHY DON'T FARMERS FOLLOW THE SAME RULES?

In order for farmers to receive USDA benefits they are required to have approved conservation plans for their farmland.

These conservation plans are designed to reduce erosion and take into account the following items:

- Soil type (including slopes)
- Crop rotation
- Tillage type (no-till, etc)
- Rainfall intensity

Using these factors, the average soil loss is determined for a field which should be equal to or less than the allowable soil loss.

According to studies, farmland erosion ranges from 1-5 tons/acre/year where construction site erosion averages 100-200 tons/acre/year.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Site with more than 1 acres of soil disturbance must be permitted through the Illinois EPA and have an approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Sites should have a stabilized entrance to keep sediment off the street and be swept daily.
- Sediment control measures, i.e. silt fence, must be installed PRIOR to the start of construction.
- Stockpiled soil must be placed away from drainage ways, curb and gutters and storm inlets.
- All trash and unused building materials must be properly contained and properly disposed of. Site should be cleaned daily.
- Site should be inspected weekly and after every ½ inch rain event.
- All maintenance of erosion control measures must be completed within seven days.
- Do not clean sediment off by spraying with water.
- Concrete trucks must use a designated washout area. No concrete waste can be dumped on the ground.
- All contractors onsite are required to understand and follow requirements.
- Waste containers (dumpsters, porta-potty's, etc) should not be placed on public right of ways and should be placed away from inlets and drainage ways.
- Site must be stabilized seven days after construction has stopped.