

Fact Sheet

Urban Erosion/Sediment Control Program

Scott County benefits from having many unique and diverse natural resources that need to be preserved – to ensure the natural beauty is maintained within the county. Over the past several years, many land-use changes – from predominantly agricultural to urban and suburban type land uses – have occurred.

The construction activities associated with these changes expose soils that are highly susceptible to erosion, causing sedimentation of lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, drainage ways, storm pipes, etc. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 20 to 150 tons of soil per acre, per year, may be lost on construction sites if erosion-control measures are not taken. With proper implementation of erosion and sediment Best Management Practices (BMPs), sediment reduction of 80 percent or greater is achievable.

Rules and regulations

It is important that individuals who are developing the land are aware of all the laws and regulations, which govern development these individuals are responsible for, protecting and/or preserving the natural resources to the fullest extent when land-use changes are proposed. Some of the regulations that must be considered prior to development are:

- County, city or township permits and regulations (i.e., grading, ISTS, wetlands)
- Local watershed permits and regulations
- State and federal permits.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit

The NPDES program is administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This permit is required for all construction sites disturbing more than one acre of land or for sites disturbing less than one acre if part of a larger subdivision. The NPDES program also regulates local municipalities, which own and/or operate a storm sewer conveyance system known as a Multiple Separate Storm sewer (MS4).

Municipalities designated as MS4s are required to develop a Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to implement six minimum control measures required by the NPDES permit:

- Public education and outreach
- Public participation and involvement
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Post-construction site runoff control
- Good housekeeping and pollution prevention.



Services provided

To maintain compliance with all applicable regulations, the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District will offer the following services to assist municipalities, developers and contractors:

- Conceptual plan reviews
- Erosion/sediment control plan reviews
- Pre-construction meeting attendance
- Erosion/sediment control site inspections for site grading, street and utility installation AND individual building lots
- Education and training for municipal/county staff AND developers, builders and contractors
- MS4 record retention
- Erosion/sediment control technical assistance
- Low Impact Development (LID) technical assistance

All of the services above may be provided, or individual services may be requested to supplement a municipality's existing program. Additional services may be available upon request to fit the needs of the municipality. Scott SWCD inspectors are certified in erosion, sediment and stormwater inspections.

For more information, contact:

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