



## University of Tennessee, Knoxville

## Runoff Reduction Policy

Applies to all new and/or redevelopment projects disturbing greater than or equal to 1 acre.

Issued: 1/5/2015

Updated:

### POLICY

This policy provides guidelines to ensure site design standards for all new and redevelopment projects require management measures that are designed, built and maintained to infiltrate, evapotranspire, harvest and/or reuse, at minimum the first inch of every rainfall event preceded by 72 hours of no measureable precipitation.

This policy establishes performance standards for reducing runoff and for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements of the State of Tennessee National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The objectives of this policy are:

1. To address permanent (post-construction) Stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects that disturb greater than or equal to 1 acre, including projects less than one acre that are part of a larger common development.
2. To regulate the amount of Stormwater discharged into the MS4 by any New or Redevelopment Projects.
3. To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the MS4 by storm water discharges from any new or redevelopment projects.

### DEFINITIONS

1. **University of Tennessee, Knoxville** - refers to the lands shown on the MS4 map located on the University of Tennessee Facilities Services Stormwater Web site, which include but are not limited to, the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus and the adjacent University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture campus.
2. **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** - the system of conveyances (including, roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) owned and operated by The University of Tennessee and designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water, and that is not used for collecting or conveying sewage.
3. **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit** - a permit issued by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.
4. **Pollutant** - any substance which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: sediment, paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluids; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes or yard wastes; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, that may cause or contribute to pollution; floatables; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and wastes; sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens; dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; wasteland residues that result from constructing a building or structure; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.
5. **Storm Drainage System** - University owned or publicly owned facilities by which Stormwater is collected and/or conveyed, including but not limited to any roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and detention basins, natural and human-made or altered drainage channels, reservoirs, and other drainage structures.

6. **Stormwater** - any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.
7. **Development/Redevelopment**- Building or Rebuilding of a residential or commercial structure or structures.
8. **Infiltration**- the process by which water on the ground surface enters the soil.
9. **Evapotranspire**-the sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the earth's land surface to atmosphere, including soil (soil evaporation).
10. **Sinkhole**-a depression or hole in the ground caused by some form of collapse of the surface layer, sometimes related to Karst topography, as is characterized as underground drainage systems.
11. **Pre-Development Infiltration Capacity**- the rate at which the soil absorbed water prior to development.
12. **Hydrology**- science associated with the properties of the earth's water, especially its movement in relation to land.
13. **Unit**- an office, class room, conference room, laboratory, residence hall dwelling space, or multipurpose room.

## **POLICY GUIDELINES**

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### **Section A: Runoff Reduction**

1. The University of Tennessee Knoxville requires that Stormwater discharges from all new development and redevelopment sites be managed such that post development hydrology does not exceed the predevelopment hydrology at the site. Runoff reduction is the preferred control practice as it can achieve both volume control and pollutant removal.
2. Site design standards for all new and redevelopment sites disturbing greater to or equal to 1 acre require (in combination or alone) management measures that are designed, built, and maintained, to infiltrate, evapotranspire, harvest and/or reuse, the first inch of every rainfall event preceded by 72 hours of no measurable precipitation. This first inch of rainfall must be 100% managed with no Stormwater runoff being discharged to surface waters.

Limitations to the application of runoff reduction requirements include, but are not limited to:

- a. Lack of the available area to create the necessary infiltrative capacity.
- b. A site that is inconsistent with capture and reuse of Stormwater.
- c. Physical conditions that preclude the use of these practices.
- d. Where there is a potential for introducing pollutants into the groundwater exists, unless pretreatment is provided.
- e. The presence of sinkholes that are visible prior to construction.
- f. When pre-existing soil contamination is present in areas subject to contact with infiltrated runoff

A 10% reduction incentive in the volume of rainfall to be managed is acceptable for any of the following types of development. These credits are additive such that the maximum reduction of 50% of the standard volume associated with the first inch of rainfall is possible for a project that meets all 5 criteria.

- g. Redevelopment.
- h. Brownfield redevelopment
- i. High density (>7 units per acre)
- j. Vertical density (>18 units per acre)
- k. Transit oriented development (within ½ mile of transit)

The accumulated reduction incentives may only be used to account for a reduction in the total quantity of Stormwater collected on the site. This reduction may only be used to account for the areas not included in the building footprint and for situations where it is not possible to collect Stormwater for reuse.

## **Section B: Pollutant Removal**

1. For projects that cannot meet 100% of the runoff reduction requirement unless subject to the incentive standards, the remainder of the stipulated amount of rainfall must be treated prior to discharge with a technology reasonably expected to remove 80% of the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) present in the Stormwater. This treatment technology must be designed, installed, and maintained to continue to meet this performance standard.

## **Section E: Compliance**

1. It is the responsibility of The University of Tennessee Division of Facilities Planning and The University of Tennessee Facilities Services Design, to insure that these criteria are being met on all new development and redevelopment projects disturbing greater than or equal to 1 acre.
2. The University of Tennessee may suspend or cease activities and operations that are not in full compliance with this Policy.