



4.4 The Stormwater Management Plan

Knox County has established the stormwater management plan as the “umbrella” plan under which all stormwater and roadway related plans are submitted, and grading and building permits are approved. Land disturbing activities not exempted by the Knox County Stormwater Management Ordinance cannot begin before obtaining a grading permit, and a building permit cannot be issued until approval of a stormwater management plan. The contents of the stormwater management plan depend upon the land disturbing or construction activity that is proposed.

The purpose of this section is to present the requirements, contents, and procedure for submittal of stormwater management plans to Knox County prior to beginning land-disturbing activities or making application for a building permit.

4.4.1 General Requirements

In general, the stormwater management plan may include, but is not limited to, written information, calculations, and maps to support the following items:

- (a) an EPSC plan;
- (b) a drainage report and associated maps/plans, including hydrologic and hydraulic calculations for peak discharge, stormwater quantity control, floodplain and sinkhole management, and stormwater quality treatment and water quality volume credit calculations;
- (c) a water quality buffer enhancement plan, if applicable;
- (d) a Special Pollution Abatement Permit and/or Floodplain Development Permit, if applicable; and,
- (e) an Operations and Maintenance plan for stormwater facilities and BMPs located on the property.

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While each of the above items is considered a component of the stormwater management plan, items that are not applicable to the development site need not be submitted. For example, a site that is going to disturb more than one acre, but does not include any new impervious surfaces, is not located in a floodplain, and does not have a wetland, lake/pond, or stream that is required to be buffered on-site would be required to submit only an EPSC plan to obtain a grading permit.

In general, stormwater management plans shall be prepared and stamped by an engineer, landscape architect, or architect competent in civil and site design and licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee. However, the following elements of a stormwater management plan that are listed below must be prepared and stamped by a professional engineer competent in civil and site design and licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee.

- (f) Any portions of the stormwater management plan that require hydraulic or hydrology calculations and design, including those temporary best management practices designed for purposes of erosion prevention and sediment control
- (g) Any portions of the erosion prevention and sediment control plan that require hydraulic or hydrology calculations and design
- (h) All public roads and Joint Permanent Easements

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4.4.2 Applicability

In accordance with the Stormwater Management Ordinance, developments and redevelopments listed below are exempt from providing a stormwater management plan.

(i) Single and two-family (i.e., duplex) individual residential dwellings in any given area that conform to the following criteria:

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- (1) do not alter a drainage channel; and,
- (2) disturb less than one (1) acre of land; and,
- (3) are not part of a larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one (1) acre or more;
- (4) do not alter the natural ground elevation by more than five (5) feet;
- (5) are not located in a sinkhole, or are not located on a site where sinkholes are entirely or partially present.

Single family residential dwellings and duplexes that conform to the above criteria, however, must submit a small lot erosion prevention and sediment control plan prior to obtaining a building permit.

(j) Non-residential development that:

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- (1) disturbs less than one (1) acre of land; or
- (2) is not part of a larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one (1) acre or more; or,
- (3) adds less than ten-thousand (10,000) square feet of impervious surface; and,
- (4) does not alter the drainage channel; and,
- (5) does not alter the natural ground elevation by more than five (5) feet;
- (6) is not located in a sinkhole, or are not located on a site where sinkholes are entirely or partially present.

Non-residential developments that conform to the above criteria, however, must submit a small lot erosion prevention and sediment control plan prior to obtaining a building permit.

- (c) Minor land disturbing activities such as home gardens and individual home repairs, landscaping, or maintenance work;
- (d) Individual utility service connections, unless such activity is carried-out in conjunction with the clearing, grading, excavating, transporting, or filling of a lot or lots for which a grading permit would otherwise be required by the regulation;
- (e) Installation, maintenance or repair of individual septic tank lines or drainage fields, unless such activity is carried out in conjunction with the clearing, grading, excavating, transporting, or filling of a lot or lots for which a grading permit would otherwise be required by the regulation;
- (f) Installation of posts or poles;
- (g) Farming activities;



(h) Emergency work to protect life, limb or property, and emergency repairs, provided that the land area disturbed shall be shaped and stabilized in accordance with the requirements of this regulation as soon as practicable.

These exemptions shall not be construed as exempting these developments and redevelopments from onsite drainage improvements that may be required in accordance with building and construction codes, nor from compliance with the requirements for a special pollution abatement permit or floodplain development permit.

The requirements for a small lot EPSC plan are discussed in detail in Section 4.6 of this chapter. General technical guidelines and policies for construction site management are discussed in Volume 2, Chapter 9.

4.4.3 Application Instructions and Checklist

Stormwater management plans and any associated plans review fees must be submitted to Knox County Engineering. Knox County Engineering will review the plans for compliance with the Knox County Stormwater Management Ordinance and other applicable local regulations. Only complete plans will be accepted for review.

A stormwater management plan checklist and a grading permit application checklist are presented in Appendix E. EPSC plans can be submitted separately from a stormwater management plan if a grading permit is desired prior to stormwater management plan approval. In this situation, the grading permit checklist should be utilized alone.

These checklists provide a complete inventory of the required contents of a stormwater management plan and/or grading permit application. Plans submittals shall contain the information listed, as applicable to the proposed land disturbing activity or development.

The Director has the authority to request the submittal of additional information with the stormwater management plan as necessary to allow a thorough review of the site conditions. **Note that the EPSC plan, drainage report and associated plans/maps, and buffer enhancement plan must be on separate plan sheet(s) for clarity.**

Use of the checklists will expedite the plans review process. The applicant must attach a signed copy of the checklist with the stormwater management plan to certify that a complete package is being submitted. Some requirements of the checklists in Appendix E will not be applicable to all projects. These requirements should be checked as "not applicable." Omission of any required items shall render the plans incomplete, and they will be returned to the applicant, or their engineer, so that they may be completed.

The checklists indicate that the applicant may also be required to meet State and Federal regulations for construction activities that will have an impact on Waters of the State, wetlands, sinkholes and threatened or endangered species. It is the responsibility of the developer or permit applicant to thoroughly review, understand and adhere to all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations with regard to site development and property regulations when submitting the stormwater management plan. Copies of all applicable State and Federal permits must be provided to Knox County Engineering as part of the stormwater management plan.