



CITY OF ATLANTA

Post-Development Stormwater Management Ordinance Updates



Mikita K. Browning, Interim Commissioner

Department of Watershed Management
10/7/2020



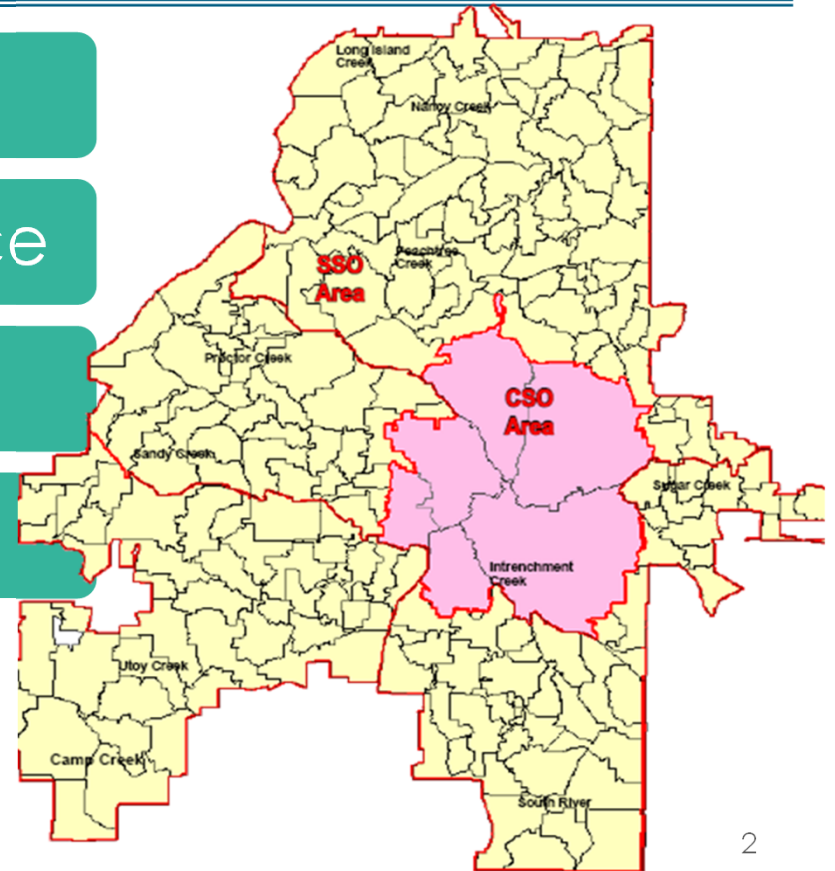
Presentation Outline

Why Stormwater Matters

Existing Stormwater Ordinance

Regulatory Requirements

Housekeeping Updates

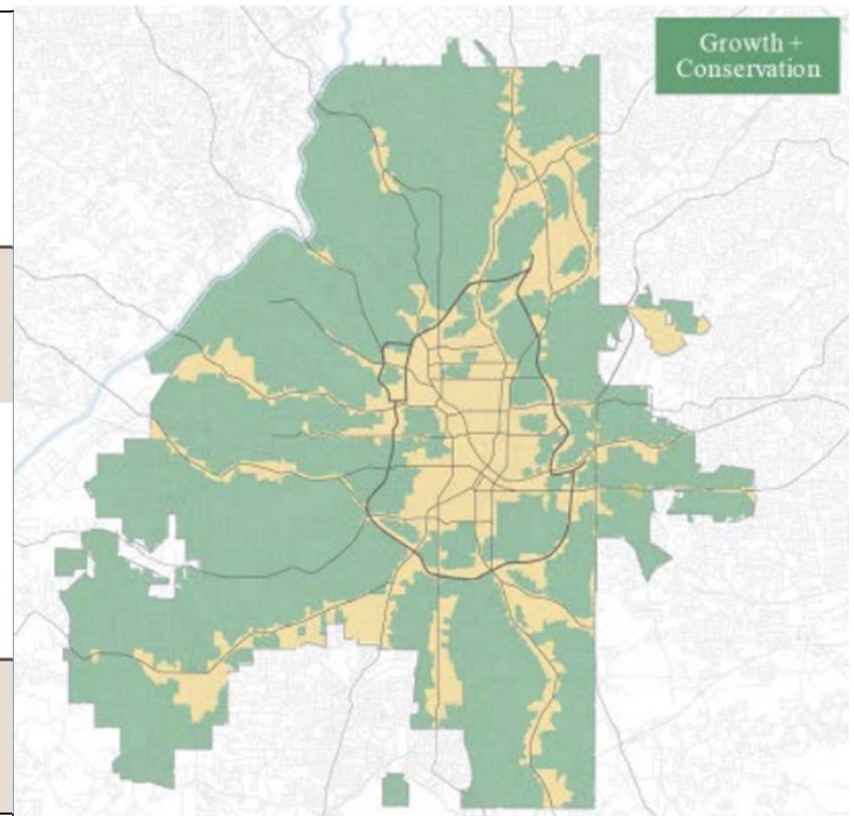
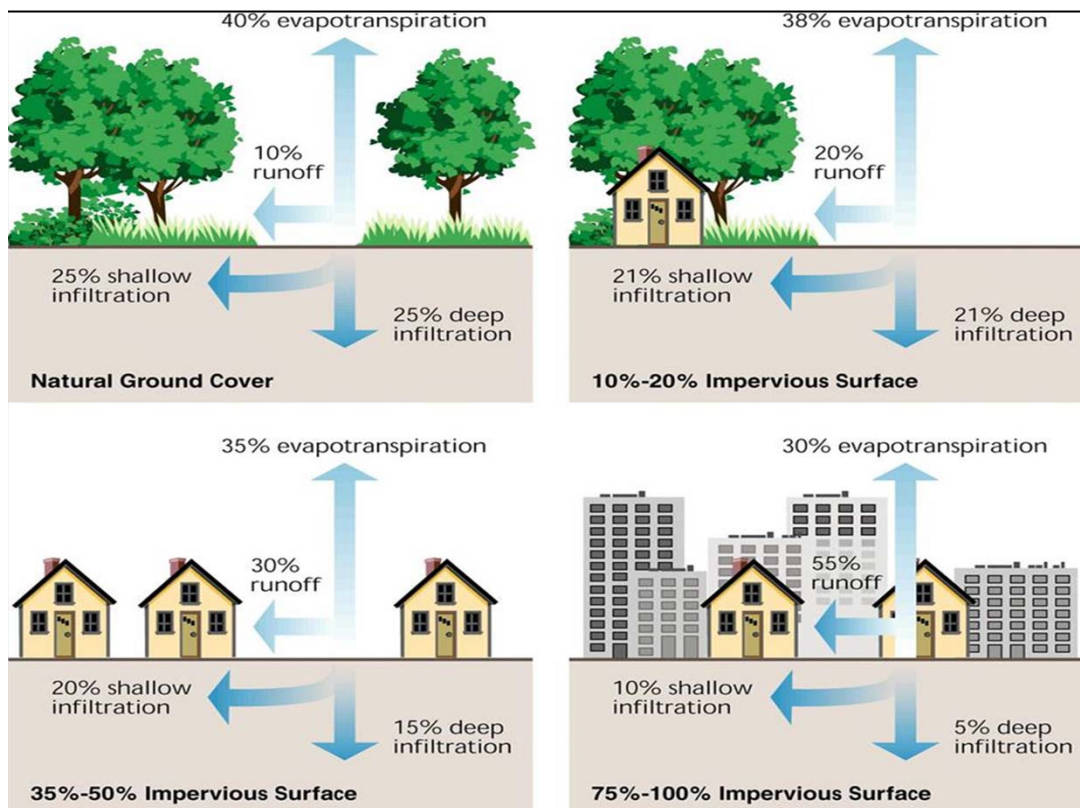


Why Stormwater Matters





Runoff in Natural vs Urban Conditions





Stormwater challenges Atlanta's resilience

DWM receives complaints about stormwater issues from across the city.

Damaged Infrastructure



Street Flooding



Water Quality



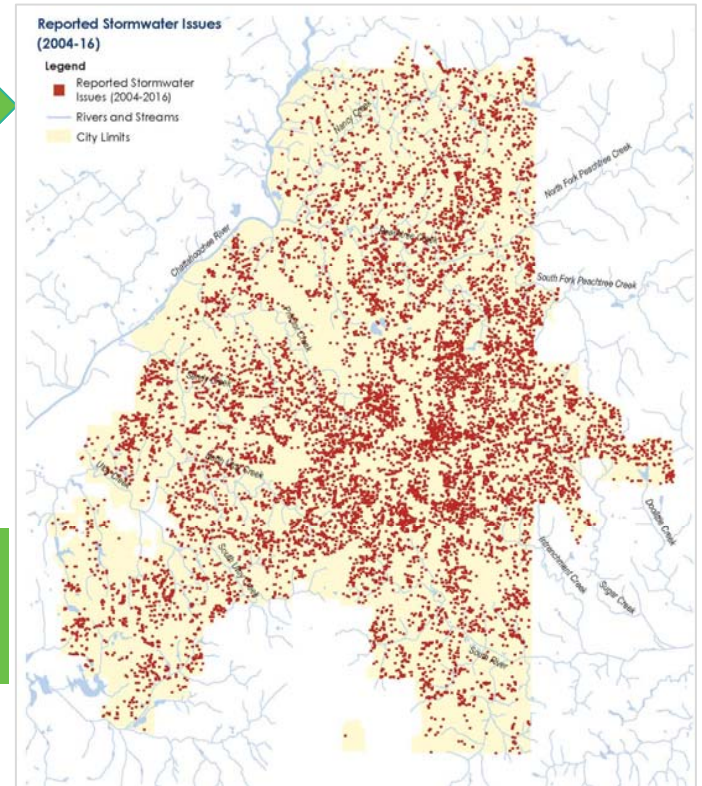
Sewer Overflows



Stream Erosion



Uncontrolled stormwater causes major impacts.





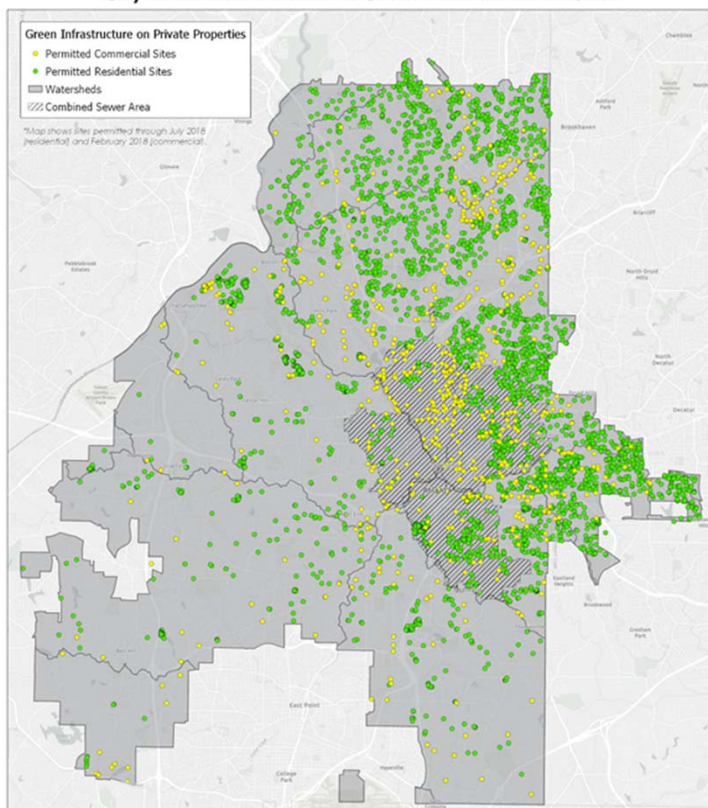
Existing Ordinance





Existing Stormwater Ordinance

City of Atlanta Permitted Green Infrastructure Sites



- First adopted stormwater controls in 1970s
- 2004 – adopted Metro District model
- February 2013 revisions added green infrastructure standards
- The 2013 revisions have received multiple awards and accolades
- Over 6,000 sites permitted with green infrastructure practices
 - These practices remove over **1.2 billion gallons** of polluted stormwater runoff from our infrastructure and streams every year



What does the Ordinance Require?

- **Water Quality Standards (remove pollutants before discharging)**
 - Runoff Reduction (GI): keep the first 1.0" of runoff on the site (volume reduction)
 - Water Quality Protection: remove 80% of the Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
- **Detention Standards (control the rate of discharge)**
 - Channel Protection: Slowly release the one-yr storm event (3.29" in 24 hrs)
 - Overbank Flood Protection: Reduce the rate of discharge up to the 25-yr storm event (5.95" in 24 hrs)
 - Extreme Flood Protection: Safely convey the 100-yr storm event (7.50" in 24 hrs)
- **Also requires:**
 - Planning & approval process
 - Alternative compliance criteria
 - Inspections, bonding, plan compliance during construction
 - Operations & Maintenance Agreement



What is Green Infrastructure?

- An interconnected, engineered system that **mimics nature**
- How does it manage stormwater?
 - ***Infiltrates*** runoff into soil
 - Allows plants to use and evaporate stormwater ("***evapotranspiration***")
 - Permits ***reuse*** (irrigation, toilet flushing, cooling tower makeup, etc.)
 - Manages stormwater ***at its source***.
- Numerous **co-benefits**: heat island reduction, biodiversity, air quality, habitat, biophilia, pollutant removal, groundwater recharge, property values, green space



Selena Butler Park Rain Garden



Gray vs. Green Infrastructure





Examples of Green Infrastructure in Atlanta



Rain Garden – Adair Park



Bioswale - Edgewood Townhomes



Permeable Pavers - Urban Market on Howell Mill



Stormwater Planter - Whitehall Terrace SW



McDaniel Branch Wetlands – Bowen Cir SW



Bioswale – GT Klaus Building

Proposed Updates





Updates

Regulatory

- Metro District Model
- MS4 Permit

Housekeeping

- Tree Ordinance
- Single-Family Residential
- Improved Drafting



Regulatory Updates: Metro District



1. New Model Ordinance (Dec 2019)
2. Atlanta's existing ordinance satisfies most of the requirements
3. Minor updates
4. Updated Runoff Reduction Policy & guidance document



Regulatory Updates: MS4 Permit

- “Linear Transportation Projects” must comply with the City’s stormwater management standards.



Source: www.rentcafe.com

- Applies to new or reconstructed:
 - Roads
 - Sidewalks
 - Multi-use paths and trails
- Feasibility Policy offers limited exemptions
- DWM will maintain and operate any new stormwater management practices



Source: www.beltline.org



Green Infrastructure Task Force

City of Atlanta Agencies

Dept. of Watershed Management
Mayor's Office of Resilience
Dept. of City Planning
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Dept. of Public Works
Dept. of Aviation
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
Invest Atlanta

Partners

American Rivers
The Conservation Fund
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
ECO-Action
Southface
Community Improvement Association
Eco Addendum
Trees Atlanta
Park Pride
Partnership for Southern Equity
The Nature Conservancy
Trust for Public Land





Interdepartmental Coordination



Multimodal Streets Policy

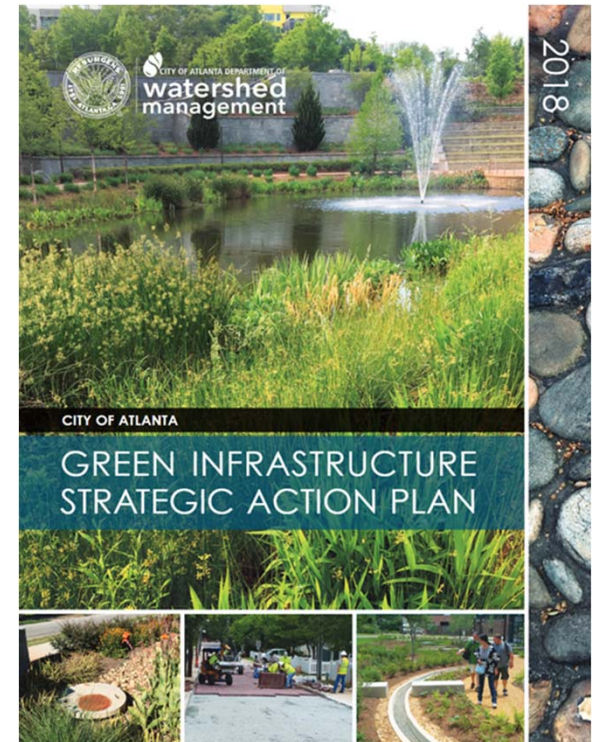
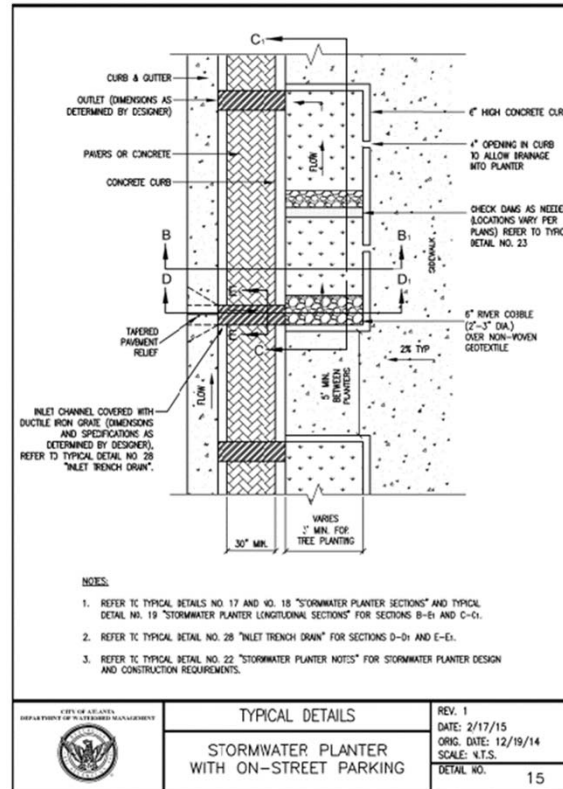
City of Atlanta
Department of Public Works

DPW Policies & Procedures

2018



10/7/2020



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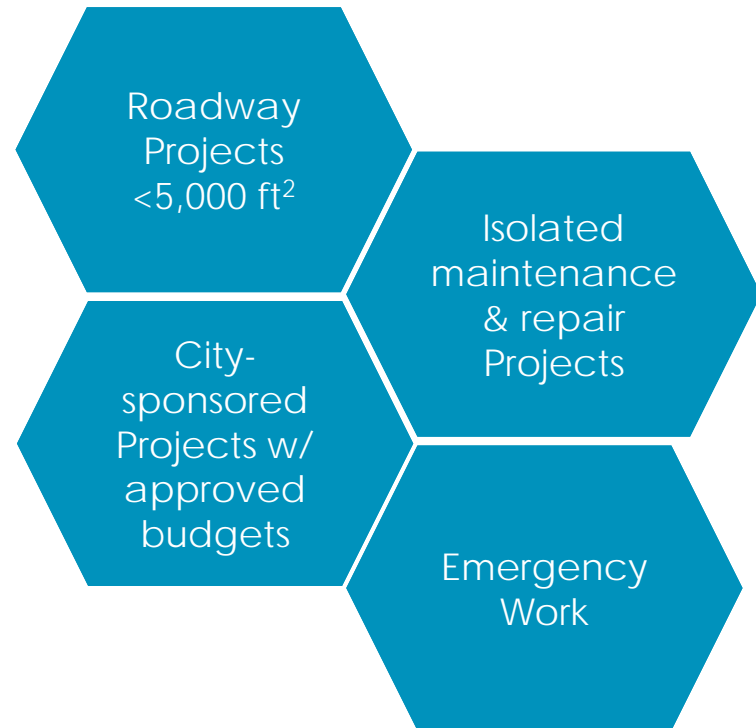


Linear Feasibility Policy



10/7/2020

Fully Exempt Project Types:





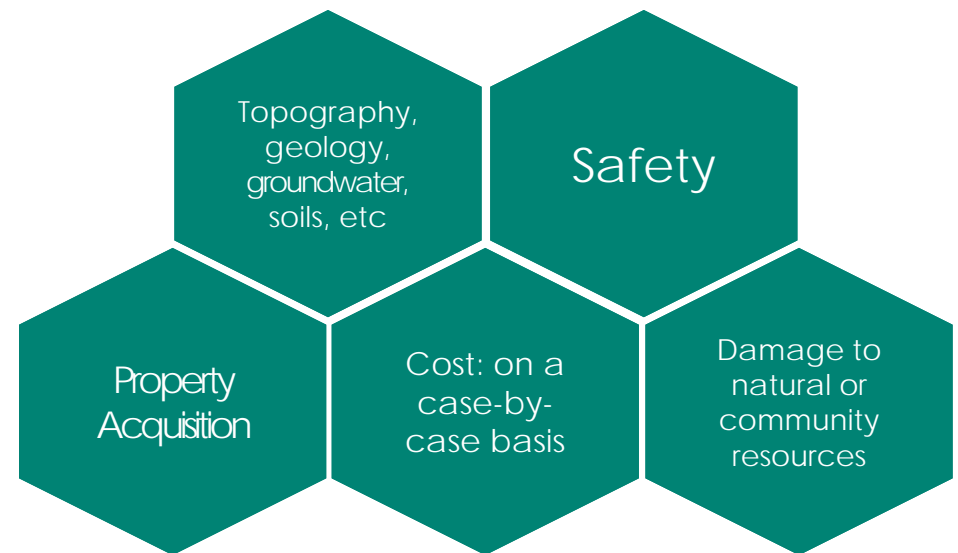
Linear Feasibility Policy

Standard-Specific Exemptions*:

Standards from which Projects may be exempt:

Runoff Reduction	Stream Channel Protection
Overbank Flooding	Extreme Flooding

Criteria for exemption:





Updates since First Read (August 2020)

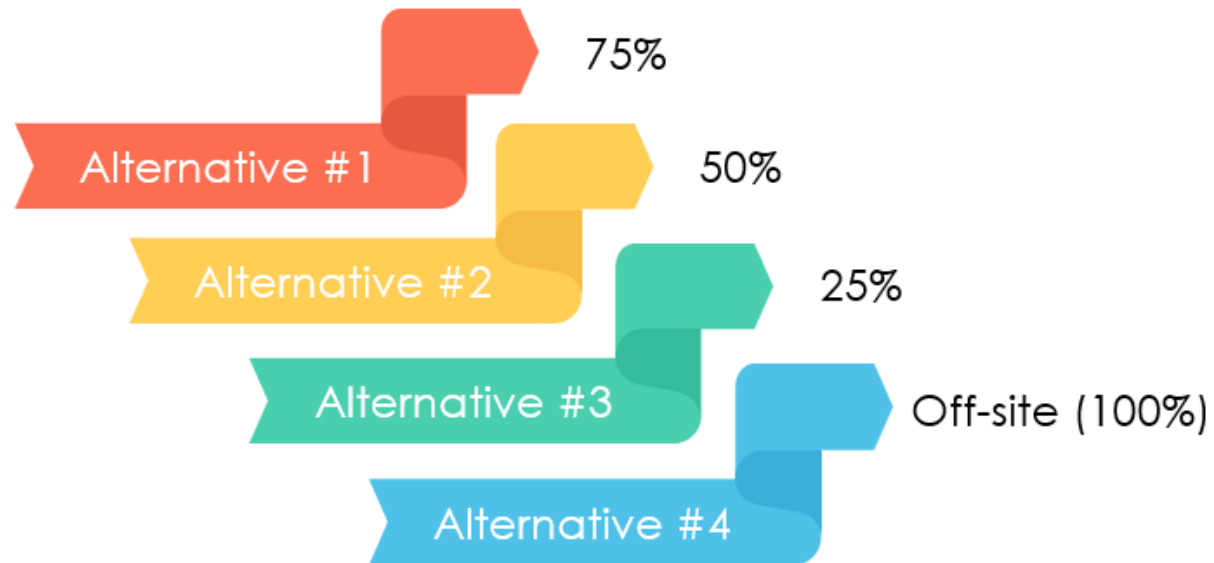


- Performance Bonds 1 to 3 yrs (§ 74-518)
- Master plan for multi-phase developments (§ 74-525)
- Channel Protection (§ 74-513)
- Alternative Compliance Process (§ 74-524)



Alternative Compliance Process

Tiered Performance Standards for Runoff Reduction





Housekeeping Updates: Tree Ordinance

1. Trees and canopy coverage must be explicitly identified in plans
2. Existing credit for Stormwater Better Site Design (Sec 74-513(g)) remains
3. New credit for preserving large trees near structure
4. New provision prohibits removing trees solely for installing stormwater management systems Sec 74-513(j)(6)



Housekeeping Updates: Single-Family Residential



>5,000 ft² Impervious



Accessory Dwellings



Housekeeping Updates: General



1. Reorganized several provisions
2. Reformatted long paragraphs into bulleted lists
3. Codified existing practices
4. Updated and capitalized defined terms
5. Removed gendered language



Public Outreach

- Green Infrastructure Task Force email list (900 names)
 - Distributed documents
 - Notification of April 21 public meeting
- Public meeting (virtual) April 21
 - 90 participants
- 55 public comments received
 - Initial Comment period April 8 – June 1. Comments still being accepted
 - Comments and responses posted on website
- Website: atlantawatershed.org/stormwaterordinance



Schedule

- CUC 1st Read August 11
- CUC Work Session October 8
- CUC 2nd read November 10
- Adoption November 16
- Becomes law November 25
- Commencement December 1
- Adoption deadline December 10

atlantawatershed.org/stormwaterordinance

