



CITY OF BATON ROUGE | PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT | FLOODPLAIN MANGEMENT WATER QUALITY



Development can significantly impact water quality, both during construction and post-construction. The use of green infrastructure, integrated water quality treatment features, and sustainable development are encouraged, or required, to promote and achieve the water quality goals of the Parish, in an effort to improve environmental quality and minimize stormwater pollutants in the Parish.

The Clean Water Act, first enacted in 1948, requires that jurisdictions protect the nation's waters, by regulating water pollution. The Parish operates and maintains a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) under the Clean Water Act through a permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. This requires the Parish to develop and implement ongoing long-term programs to regulate stormwater discharges from development, including construction sites.

Development causes areas that were once vegetated, providing infiltration and natural treatment of stormwater, to be replaced with impervious surfaces. These impervious surfaces accumulate pollutants from improvements, vehicles, machinery, and the atmosphere, and subsequently discharge those pollutants to the stormwater system during storm events. As part of the Parish's MS4 program, development is required to treat or retain all first flush stormwater pollutants. First flush is defined as the first one and one-quarter (1.25) inches of runoff from a development site.



New developments are required to prepare a Water Quality Impact Study (WQIS) to ensure that water quality is not impaired due to development, or redevelopment. The WQIS empirically shows the expected pollutant loading from the development, and expected pollutant removal, for each proposed treatment device. Appendix K of the UDC details different methods and types of water quality treatment, for both the construction and post-construction phases.



For activities during the construction phase of a development, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) submittal is required. The SWPPP submittal describes the types and placements of water quality devices, or best management practices (BMPs), that will be utilized to retain sediment onsite, prevent erosion and sedimentation, and control sources of pollution on the site that may cause adverse water quality in the construction site runoff. Some smaller construction sites do not require a full SWPPP submittal, however treatment devices and BMPs are still required to control construction site runoff.