



Erosion & Sedimentation

Sediment is one of the largest non-point source pollutants and is a leading cause in the deterioration of surface water quality in the United States.

Sediment loss from construction sites is a significant contributor to overall sedimentation and is relatively easy to control. Erosion and sedimentation practices are important storm water pollution prevention methods for ALL sized construction projects. These practices are designed to prevent or minimize disturbed soil from entering drains and waterways.

Failure to control sedimentation will result in murky water and muddy gravel beds. This causes negative impacts on the aquatic environment which makes it less inhabitable to local wildlife.

Control Methods

To be in compliance with federal, state and local storm water requirements, the University requires that projects of all sizes follow the developed campus Facility Standards and abide by the University's Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit. In addition to this, construction projects one acre or greater must also obtain an IEPA construction stormwater permit and develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Standard operating procedures for soil erosion & sedimentation control:

- Construction activities cannot allow a discharge that alters the physical, thermal, chemical, biological or radioactive properties of waterways.
- Construction sites cannot discharge a contaminant that is harmful to public health or wildlife.
- All construction sites must provide on-site methods to prevent sediment from entering the storm water system.
- All construction sites must have stabilized construction site entrances to limit sediment tracking.
- If sediment leaves the construction site onto roadways, off-site accumulations must be removed before rain and by the end of the day.
- Sediment should be removed from sediment traps and basins when design capacity has been reduced by 50%.
- Existing vegetation should be preserved where possible to minimize erosion.
- Construction sites should be inspected regularly and erosion control deficiencies corrected.
- Immediately communicate and report outdoor or drain spills to the Facilities & Services, Service Office at 217-333-0340.



