**Recommended Post-Construction Stormwater Management for Single Family Residences**

PA Code Title 25 Chapter 102 (102.2 & 102.4(6)) requires that potential pollution from changes in stormwater runoff and thermal impacts be considered for earth disturbance projects with disturbances over 5,000 square feet. In order to keep construction costs to a minimum while satisfying these requirements, the Berks County Conservation District recommends the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) for small projects, in order of preference:

1. Soil Amendments in combination with rooftop and impervious disconnection (i.e. downspouts and driveways drain to the compost amended soil areas). Maximize flow paths of runoff through amended soils and minimize slopes in flow paths. The purpose of soil amendments is to relieve soil compaction from construction equipment, quickly establish a lush lawn and provide nutrients to sustain long-term vegetative growth.
2. Rain Gardens designed to collect runoff from impervious surfaces. A Rain Garden is a depressed, vegetated area that collects stormwater runoff and allows it to infiltrate into the soil. Wet tolerant trees and shrubs are strongly recommended in this BMP as seed mixes generally have an extended grow-in period (2-3 years) and may not be aesthetically pleasing or provide the intended benefits until mature establishment. Please contact BCCD for a list of native water tolerant plantings.
3. Underground or above ground infiltration berm/trench/bed to collect runoff from impervious surfaces. For underground BMPs rooftop runoff may be directly connected but a leaf strainer is recommended. Other areas of runoff may necessitate some type of pre-treatment to help eliminate premature failure of the BMP, especially prior to a fully established lawn.
4. Utilize extensive landscaping in disturbed areas, including the planting of native trees adjacent to driveways, mulched landscaping beds and deep-rooting native vegetation.
5. Rain Barrels at each downspout along with an operations and maintenance plan in order to use the stored runoff for irrigation or other non-potable uses.

The previous land use will be considered when determining the adequate use and size of BMPs. It is noted that items 1-3 above may be the sole BMP used to meet Chapter 102 objectives if sized and designed accordingly. The use of items 4 & 5 may need to be supplemented with additional BMPs to meet Chapter 102 objectives. It is further noted that nearly all stormwater management facilities will require some degree of maintenance. Please contact the Berks County Conservation District, a design consultant or the PA Stormwater BMP Manual for further information.

\*Please note that your local municipality may have their own requirements for stormwater management.

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