

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND LINKS

Dealing With Dirt ♦ September 23, 2004 ♦ Palmetto Expo Center ♦ Greenville, SC

BUILDERS FOR THE RIVERS **Changing Local Ordinances to Make Low-Impact Development More Profitable**

[Grand Traverse County Soil Erosion and Stormwater Runoff Control Ordinances](#)

This sample ordinance explains the administrative procedures, standards, and enforcement methods to be used to implement the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1972. If adopted, the goal is to protect the land and prevent the pollution and destruction of natural resources due to soil erosion and stormwater runoff.

[Give Erosion Control Some Teeth](#)

Outlining the past failure of the erosion control laws in Georgia, this editorial gives an overview of the importance and financial fairness of the Reheis plan, which would not require local funding and would greatly decrease the environmental impact created by the erosion of soil from construction sites. (November 15, 2002)

[Atlanta Regulators Suggest Systematic Overhaul of Confusing Erosion Control Laws](#)

Despite tougher federal regulations, the disastrous effects of construction and development on soil erosion and water pollution in Atlanta has prompted the state Environmental Protection Department to suggest a systemic overhaul of previously confusing, weakly enforced erosion control programs. The changes include fees for builders and developers and instituting inspectors, punishment, training, and less paperwork. (December 2, 2002)

[Bill Targeting Pollution From Construction Gains Support](#)

The erosion and sedimentation bill is quietly and favorably working its way through legislation during this General Assembly. The bill would set up development fees in order to fund training builders and inspecting construction sites, meanwhile reducing paperwork and replacing fines for violators with mandatory stop-work orders. The proposal is currently under consideration by the budget subcommittee who will decide whether or not to recommend it to the full appropriations committee. (April 7, 2003)

[Developers Can Wear White Hats](#)

The American Forestry Association has joined hands with the National Association of Home Builders to create a program to help make future communities green, called Global ReLeaf for New Communities. The program works by giving ReLeaf certification and public recognition to communities and builders who use environmentally friendly development practices. This way, developers and conservationists work together to create more aesthetically pleasing and faster selling homes, satisfying both parties.

[Greening Development to Protect Watersheds: Does New Urbanism Make a Difference?](#)

This study compares new urban and conventional developments in the United States to see how well they integrate watershed protection techniques. New urban developments were found to offer greener and more compact alternatives to sprawl, better protect sensitive areas, and incorporate best management practices. Recommendations suggest ways that watershed protection techniques can be used to implement more environmentally sustainable development.

[Erosion and Sediment Control for Home Builders](#)

The Erosion and Sediment Control for Home Builders article highlights the economic impacts of soil erosion while outlining ways to control this erosion. Includes directions for installing silt fences, sediment logs, and proper vegetation practices.

[Green Lots vs. Brown Lots: Which Holds the Economic Advantage?](#)

This study tests whether there is an economic advantage for developers to use vegetative cover for erosion control independent of addressing environmental and regulatory concerns. Homebuyers and realtors perceive vegetated lots to be worth more than unvegetated lots, and this increased value exceeds the cost of seeding. Therefore, developers should be encouraged to invest in vegetative cover because of the potential for high return on the investment.



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[Stormwater Fact Sheet for Local Officials](#)

This document defines and describes the impacts of stormwater runoff. This series of brief fact sheets is designed to help local officials understand this problem and how to address it.

[Stormwater Management Fact Sheet](#)

This fact sheet describes both traditional and integrated principles of stormwater management. Preventative measures, land use planning techniques and erosion/sedimentation control (vegetative, detention/retention practices) are among the issues addressed in this article.

[Survey Says Half of State's Construction Sites Violate Soil Erosion Laws](#)

A survey conducted by the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection examined more than 800 construction sites in 88 communities found that 44% were not taking proper erosion control measures, which protect lakes and streams from pollution. Due to the surprising results, the state has begun considering mandatory certification, which would have to be passed by the Legislature, a move that would produce skepticism from some larger contractors.

[Listen To Your Mother](#)

This article discusses the introduction of a new "philosophy" for guiding the new movement to "green" the construction industry. A concept called Construction Ecology uses the behavior of biological systems as guidance for the design of a new line of thinking which hopes to lower impact of the construction industry on natural systems.

