

Local News

search

site go Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Home > News > Local News

Predicted Upstate growth leads to stormwater management changes

By Liz Carey (Contact)
Friday, September 5, 2008

STORY TOOLS

- E-mail story
- Comments
- iPod friendly
- Printer friendly

SHARE AND ENJOY



MORE LOCAL NEWS

- Central imposes water restrictions
- Oconee Planning Commission rejects some advice of consultants
- Oconee County's Sewer Water Action Group agreement one step closer to passage

RATE THIS ARTICLE

Unrated

ANDERSON — Changes in stormwater management are necessary because of increased proposed development in the Upstate, experts said Friday.

During a Stormwater Management workshop presented by Anderson County and Upstate Forever, experts predicted that developed areas in the Upstate would grow as much as five times the rate of population growth.

And those developments impact the water quality in surrounding areas.

When pollutants make it into stormwater, those pollutants are dumped into the area's water source, said Jon Batson, Stormwater and Air Quality Manager in Anderson County's Environmental Services Division.

"It doesn't go into a treatment facility, it gets dumped right back into fresh water," Batson said at the event Friday in the Civic Center of Anderson.

Because of that, Anderson County is implementing new permitting processes and new public education efforts to ensure the message makes it to the people.

If more than one acre of land will be disturbed in a construction project, the developer must file for a stormwater permit that will be reviewed by the stormwater department.

The goal for all parcels of property is that the discharge after construction cannot be more than the discharge was before construction during two- and 10-year storm events, said Chip Polk, stormwater plan reviewer. Additionally, during the construction, the active sites will be inspected every seven days, or every 14 days and within 24 hours of a rainstorm event, he said.

With a projected population growth of 30 percent by 2030 in Anderson County, stormwater becomes a very important issue, said two scientists with Clemson University.

Jeff Allen, director of the South Carolina Water Resources Center at the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs at Clemson, said Anderson County is expected to grow to 215,380 people in 2030 from as estimated 179,981 in 2008.

And research indicates the area will see a 5-1 ratio in the amount of land developed to the population.

That means, Allen said, that the acres of developed land in the Upstate will grow from 576,336 in 2000, the last year for which there was concrete data, to an estimated 1,522,891 acres in 2030.

"This is not completely paved-over land, but land that is touched by development in some way," he said. "If there are no changes in the rates of historical growth ... this is a very likely scenario."



MOST EMAILED

MOST COMMENTED

The most e-mailed stories

- Council candidate says no discussion has taken place about getting rid of Balloonfest in Anderson
- Woman's indecent proposal targets Anderson employee
- Clemson-area youths get second chance at education, jobs at learning center
- Anderson law enforcement officer Michael Williams dies at 52
- Bowden's calls still ringing in people's ears
- Meadors a better choice
- Candidates Meadors, Bryant to face off in Anderson

That growth can cause environmental problems that must be addressed now, said Stephen J. Klaine, a professor in the biological sciences department of Clemson.

His group researched stormwater over several years in a typical housing development along Lost Creek in Greenwood County. What they found was that the development created stormwater problems that increased the amount of particulates in the run-off water. Even just loose dirt and clay in the water was enough to kill low-level life forms, Allen said. "Any changes in land use can cause big changes in aquatic ecosystem health," Klaine said. "The number one reason people come to South Carolina is the environment. But the number one reason they leave South Carolina is also the environment. They come for the beautiful area, but then they see what happens to it, and they move to another beautiful area. ... Our goal has to be to keep it aesthetically pleasing and still maintain a high quality of life."

Independent Directors

CT Corporation's Staffing Service offers Independent
ctlegalsolutions

Need an Independent Director?

National Registered Agents, Inc. (NRAI) is a leading provider of independentdirecto

Independence University Online

Get Info on Online Degrees at Independence University Online. GuideToOnlineSchoo

Ads by Yahoo!

Comments

There is 1 response to this article. [Join the conversation »](#)

Comments are meant to offer our readers a forum for thoughtful, robust debate about local issues.

Comments are moderated, but you may find the content of the conversations offensive, objectionable or factually disputable.

[Click here for our user-contributions policy.](#)



Scripps Interactive Newspapers Group
© 2008 The E.W. Scripps Co.
[Privacy Policy](#) (updated) | [User Agreement](#) (updated)

**More news and information
from our local news partners**

Anderson Independent-Mail News :: (864-260-1244) :: Toll-Free: (1-800-859-6397)