Bowling Green, Kentucky
Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Site Planning and Design Practices (SPDs)

SPD-01.1

Activity: Stream Corridors

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

Design Life:
Permanent

Acreage Needed:
Width is defined by local ordinances

Possible Permits:
KDOW
Check local ordinances

Target Pollutants

Significant ♦ Partial ◈ Low or Unknown ◊

Sediment ♦ Heavy Metals ♦ Nutrients ◊ Oxygen Demanding Substances ◊ Toxic Materials ♦
Oil& Grease ♦ Bacteria & Viruses ◊ Floatable Materials ♦ Construction Waste ♦

Description

Sensitive areas such as stream corridors (waterways and riparian land) are subject to special protection due to their unique characteristics. These waterways provide habitat for fish, aquatic plants, and bottom dwelling organisms. Modifications to these inhabitants destroys physical features essential to a good habitat including: stable streambanks and bottom substrates, pools and riffles, meanders and spawning areas.

The vegetative habitat surrounding riparian land adjacent to stream banks filters pollutants from storms and floods and provides habitats for a variety of amphibians, aquatic birds and mammals. These creatures and their functions are impaired when development occurs within the corridor or riparian. Development causes more flooding to the area as well as meandering of natural streams.

To combat the developmental construction to the corridor or riparian, filter strips or forested buffers should be created or preserved along the banks of streams. Another method of preservation to corridors and riparian is the presence of vegetation along shorelines of ponds, lakes and wetlands. This aids in preventing erosion caused by wave action.

Benefits

- Improves the quality of water resources by removing or ameliorating the effects of pollutants in runoff.
- Streamside trees and bushy vegetation reduce erosion during flood events.
- Root system of trees control streambank erosion.
- Leaves from streambank trees lower water temperatures thereby improving fish habitat.
- Living and dead vegetation provide nutrients to support wildlife habitat.
- Improved fish and wildlife habitation provides recreational benefits to the community such as fishing, birding, canoeing and swimming where allowed.