

Summary of Meeting on Proposed Changes to Chapter 63, Stormwater Management and Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control

Jerry Hancock, Stormwater and Floodplain Programs Coordinator, City of Ann Arbor, gave a presentation on proposed changes to Chapter 63. The proposed changes would required new construction of single and two family residences and remodeling which increase impervious surface to include best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater retention/infiltration on site. The following is a summary of questions and comments that were raised at the meeting:

Q: Will green roofs count as an acceptable BMP under the proposed requirements?

A: yes, as long as it meets the treatment volume requirements

Q: What types of vegetation are acceptable for rain gardens, green roofs?

A: The Michigan Low Impact Design Manual, available on the City's Systems Planning/Water Resources Webpage, provides guidance on these topics.

Q: Does permeable pavement have the same lifespan as traditional pavement?

A: Research shows permeable pavement will last longer than traditional pavement. However, the city has no direct evidence of this because permeable pavement is a relatively new concept in Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor. The City has installed permeable pavers along Easy Street and in some parks, but they have not been in place long enough to compare to traditional pavement systems. In 2010, the City is constructing the first permeable pavement street in Michigan.

Q: Why is the City using 1/2" for first flush? Why not a larger rainfall total?

A: The number is based on the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioners Rules (1996). In this region of the United States, approximately 85% of all rain events are 1/2" or less.

Q: Does the City have plans to regulate properties that have tiled their lawns (directs water from the lawn to a drain tile buried underground that discharges into the street)?

A: The City does not have any plans to regulate this.

Q: Do we know what % impervious area was added in 2008?

A: 0.02%

A:

Q: On average, what % of land in the city is impervious?

A: 29.5% is impervious. 67.6% is pervious, and the remaining 2.9% is surface water and stormwater features (open ditches, detention ponds etc)

Q: On average, what % of the impervious area in the City are streets and sidewalks?

A: Streets and sidewalks (all land within the public right-of-way) account for 30% of the total impervious area of the City.

Q: Has anyone spoken out against these proposed changes?

A: No, but City staff and the Builder's Association do have concerns about the City's ability to implement, knowing that a backlog already exists in the building department and this department is already facing significant budget challenges.

Q: Can I install a pervious driveway to meet these requirements?

A: yes

Q: What are the next steps?

A: The proposed changes will be taken to City Council for approval. The revised ordinance will have a first and second reading, at separate Council meetings. A public hearing will take place with the second reading.

Q: What is the City's stormwater budget?

A: The operating budget is \$5,200,000. The average capital budget is \$3,000,000. The stormwater utility revenue covers the operating budget. The capital projects are funded through bonds, low-interest loans and grants

COMMENTS:

- Need to keep in mind that this is a good first step. This will improve water quality but does not address existing flooding problems
- Although new regulations do not improve flooding problems, controlling runoff on new impervious area will not add to the problem.
- Plant and soil types affect how fast rainwater will infiltrate
- Overland flow in Allen Creek is a problem