



SPOTLIGHT ON PERMITTING & PROPERTY PROTECTION

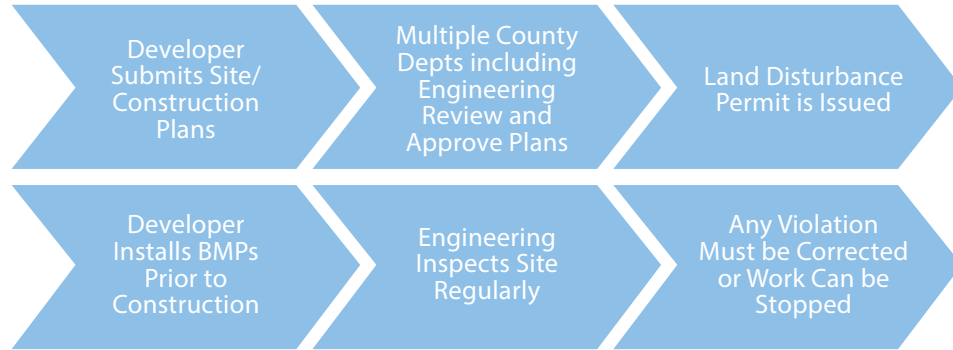


SPRING 2021

THE RESOURCE

UNDERSTANDING OUR WATER

Forsyth County issues land disturbance permits for development and the Department of Engineering ensures all E&SC requirements are met during construction. Here is the basic process.



The developer must ensure any ongoing erosion prevention measures, such as permanent vegetation or detention ponds, are in place once the project is complete. E&SC inspectors also ensure that the County's required 50-foot stream buffers are in compliance.

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

Private property owners can also do their part by preserving buffers along creeks on their property, mulching or adding appropriate plants to low or bare areas. This will also help protect your property values as erosion and sedimentation can cause flooding, reduce your yard size and even endanger buildings, fences, and other structures.



Don't Mow to the Creek's Edge - leave a Buffer



Physical barriers such as silt fencing are an effective erosion control measure in land development.

EROSION: MORE THAN JUST DUST IN THE WIND

Erosion occurs naturally when dirt, sand, and soil break down and are then gradually moved from one location to another by wind and water. Clearing and grading as part of land development or for an infrastructure project can speed up erosion by exposing loose dirt and soil that is more easily moved by high winds and heavy rains. That's why it's important that protective measures, known as erosion and sedimentation control (E&SC), are put in place to keep any disturbed dirt or sediment in its original location and out of local water ways and off other properties. State agencies such as the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) set requirements for E&SC that are

carried out locally. In Forsyth County, the Engineering Department oversees these activities so that new projects support the community's vision without hurting the community's natural resources of water and land.

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The Department of Engineering publishes The Resource on a regular basis to build community knowledge and understanding of our shared water resources.

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PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES AGAINST EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

In areas where development activity speeds up the natural erosion and sedimentation processes, mitigating their effects can be done effectively through local ordinances and how we interact with our local environment.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Forsyth County has its own **Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance**, known as **Ordinance 73**, that explains what steps must be

taken on land development and infrastructure projects to help ensure that loosened soil and sediment stays on site. Two major protective measures are BMPs (best management practices) and buffers.

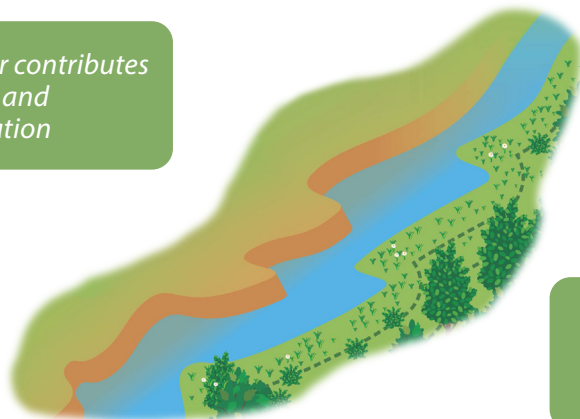
BMPs include barriers such as silt fences and hay bales that keep sediment out of local waterways either by being washed directly into streams and creeks or being carried in by stormwater systems.



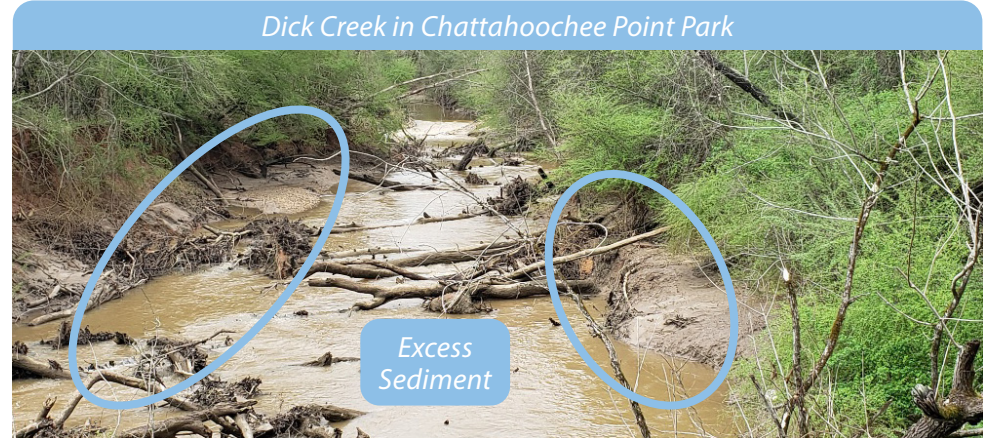
Scan for more on Ordinance 73

Buffers next to streams and creeks help slow the flow of rainwater and sediment and should be properly maintained with vegetation to help filter impurities that can harm fish and other aquatic life. Keeping excess sediment out also supports a healthy habitat. Improving and maintaining a high level of natural water quality is just as important for our residents as local sources contribute to the raw water supply that's treated to create safe drinking water for all of us.

Bare buffer contributes to erosion and sedimentation



Vegetated buffer slows erosion and sedimentation



Dick Creek in Chattahoochee Point Park

Excess Sediment

Sedimentation in creeks can hurt aquatic life by increasing water temperature and decreasing oxygen in the water. Filled in streams and ponds also contribute to localized flooding.

EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL TERMS UNCOVERED

Erosion is the process by which the land surface is worn away, as sediment particles are detached by water, wind, ice or gravity.

Sedimentation is the process by which eroded sediment is transported and deposited by water wind, ice or gravity.

Buffers are "the area of land immediately adjacent to the banks of state waters in its natural state of vegetation, which facilitates the protection of water quality and aquatic habitat." (O.C.G.A. 12-7-3).

Best management practices (BMPs) are a collection of structural measures and vegetative practices which, when properly designed, installed and maintained, will provide effective erosion and sedimentation control.