



Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

Regulatory Standards

Administration

The SRWMO does not have a permitting program. These standards will be administered by the member communities of the SRWMO. Each community must adopt standards at least as protective as, and consistent with, the SRWMO standards in their ordinances, and implement them.

Stormwater

Goal: Maintain water quality and promote infiltration in sandy soils.

Standards:

- **Applicability:** These standards apply to:
 - Subdivision or development of three or more lots OR
 - >1 ac disturbance creating new impervious surfaces.
 - Issuance of new building permits for individual lots in the shoreland zone – in this instance the only applicable standard is that impervious surfaces on the lot may not exceed 25%.
- **Volume control:** Retain 1" from impervious surfaces, preferably by infiltration.
- **Pollutant control:** Post-development must equal pre-development for total phosphorus and suspended solids for the 2-, 10- and 100-year 24-hour storm events.
- **Rate control:** Post-development rates must equal pre-development for the 2-, 10- and 100-year 24-hour storm events.
- **What to do if infiltration is difficult or not advised:** Volume retention, with infiltration and minimizing runoff-generating surfaces as the preferred techniques, must be used to the maximum extent practical to achieve the SRWMO standards. Maximum extent practical shall be determined by the local permitting authority (city or township). Infiltration is prohibited in the circumstances described in the MN Stormwater Manual Design Criteria for Infiltration, including runoff from fueling stations, in the emergency response area of a drinking water supply management area and others.
- **Exempt activities:** road mill and overlay, maintenance and paving of existing gravel roads, agricultural production not creating impervious surfaces, and emergency activities necessary for protection of life, property or natural resources.
- **Special considerations in the shoreland zone:** Impervious surfaces must not exceed 25% of lot area.
- **Pre-treatment** is required before water enters an infiltration practice.

- **Must utilize Atlas 14** precip data when estimating stormwater rates, volumes and pollutants.
- **A legally binding and enforceable maintenance plan** clarifying responsible parties is required for all stormwater infiltration or retention practices.

Wetlands

Goals:

- Filter runoff through a vegetated buffer.
- Prevent disturbance within the wetland.

Standards:

- **Applicability:** These standards apply to:
 - Subdivision or development of three or more lots OR
 - >1 ac disturbance creating new impervious surfaces.
- **Buffer width:** A minimum 16.5 ft perennially vegetated buffer is required at the wetland boundary.
- **Protections during construction:** The delineated wetland, but not necessarily the buffer area, must be protected during construction with protected with appropriate perimeter erosion control.
- **Buffer seeding:** Any areas where vegetation is removed in the buffer area during construction must be reseeded with a native seed mix, and the applicant is responsible for maintenance or reseeded for 3 years through a legally enforceable agreement with the city/township. These requirements do not apply if the buffer area vegetation is not disturbed during construction.
- **Buffer vegetation:** Buffer shall be a perennial, unmowed vegetation creating continuous cover. Existing vegetation may be used.
- **Buffer within an easement:** The buffer shall be within a drainage and utility easement with the community's restrictions on structures and other activities in a drainage and utility easement.
- **Stormwater discharge to wetlands:** Discharged stormwater must be treated to SRWMO stormwater standards.
- **Water level bounce:** Allowable water level bounce in wetlands must follow MPCA guidance document - *Stormwater and Wetlands: Planning and Evaluation Guidelines for Addressing Potential Impacts of Urban Stormwater and Snowmelt Runoff on Wetlands*,” Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 1997, or subsequent updates.
- **Variances:** Buffer variances may be granted in any of the following conditions:
 - Small wetlands where the entire wetland area is less than or equal to the area of wetland impact allowed without replacement as *de minimis* under the MN Wetland Conservation Act. It is acceptable to have no buffers in these cases.

- Part of the required buffer is outside of the wetland's watershed. Due to topography near the wetland, runoff flows away from and never enters the wetland through surface flows. Variances should only be for that portion of the buffer that would be outside of the wetland's watershed.
- If drainage is redirected to an area where a buffer is feasible.
- If the site is not generating stormwater or is using storm water minimizing techniques that also provide habitat value such as rain gardens, vegetated swales, and other Best Management Practices (BMP's) replace the functions of buffers.
- If the applicant is protecting additional upland, beyond that required by other ordinances or control measures, to connect existing wildlife habitat.
- Undue hardship, as defined in MN Statutes 462.357, subd. 6, subpart 2.
- Others as determined by the permitting authority.
- Roads and other linear projects, except those created as part of new residential or commercial developments.

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems

Short term goal: Have consistent triggers for periodic septic system inspections that result in non-compliant systems getting fixed.

Long term goals: If grant funds can be secured,

- Expand triggers for septic system inspections to include property transfer in all SRWMO communities. East Bethel and Columbus have this, Linwood and Ham Lake do not. The SRWMO will pursue grants for development and update of these ordinances, and setting up a process to implement it.
- Provide septic system inspections of all parcels throughout the shoreland district.
- Install community systems where it is more economical than individual fixes.
- Increase grant funds to homeowners for fixing failing septic systems. Priority area is the shoreland zone.

Standards:

- Building permit applications to add a bedroom or square footage shall follow the MN Rules 7080 requirement for a review of the onsite sewage treatment system's design to determine if additional flow can be accommodated.
- Communities must track septic system pumping at each residence or business.
- Communities must send maintenance reminders for residences where the community has no record of maintenance in the last three years.