

# ***Phase II Stormwater Ordinance***

***City of Graham***

**Adopted by the City Council**

**May 1, 2007**

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## ARTICLE XII. STORMWATER ORDINANCE

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## ARTICLE XII. STORMWATER ORDINANCE

### DIVISION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sec. 10.486 Title

This ordinance shall be officially known as “The Phase II Stormwater Ordinance.” It is referred to herein as “this ordinance.”

#### Sec. 10.487 Authority

The City of Graham is authorized to adopt this ordinance pursuant to North Carolina law, including but not limited to Article 14, Section 5 of the Constitution of North Carolina; North Carolina General Statutes 143-214.7 and rules promulgated by the Environmental Management Commission thereunder; Session Law 2006-246; Chapter 160A, §§ 174, 185 and; as well as Chapter 113A, Article 4 (Sedimentation Pollution Control); Article 21, Part 6 (Floodway Regulation); Chapter 160A, Article 19 (Planning and Regulation of Development); Chapter 153A, Article 18.

#### Sec. 10.488 Findings

It is hereby determined that:

*Development* and *redevelopment* alter the hydrologic response of local watersheds and increases stormwater runoff rates and volumes, flooding, soil erosion, stream channel erosion, nonpoint and point source pollution, and sediment transport and deposition, as well as reducing groundwater recharge;

These changes in stormwater runoff contribute to increased quantities of water-borne pollutants and alterations in hydrology which are harmful to public health and safety as well as to the natural environment; and

These effects can be managed and minimized by applying proper design and well-planned controls to manage stormwater runoff from *development* sites.

Further, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (“Clean Water Act”) and federal Phase II Stormwater Rules promulgated under it, as well as rules of the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission promulgated in response to federal Phase II requirements, compel certain urbanized areas, including this jurisdiction, to adopt the minimum stormwater controls such as those included in this ordinance.

Therefore, the Graham City Council establishes this set of water quality and quantity regulations to meet the requirements of state and federal law regarding control of stormwater runoff and discharge.

**Sec. 10.489 Purpose**

a.) General

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect, maintain and enhance the public health, safety, environment and general welfare by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased post-*development* stormwater runoff and nonpoint and point source pollution associated with new *development* and *redevelopment*. It has been determined that proper management of construction-related and post-*development* stormwater runoff will minimize damage to public and private property and infrastructure, safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare, and protect water and aquatic resources.

b.) Specific

This ordinance seeks to meet its general purpose through the following specific objectives and means:

- (1) Establishing decision-making processes for *development* that protect the integrity of watersheds and preserve the health of water resources;
- (2) Requiring that new *development* and *redevelopment* maintain the pre-*development* hydrologic response in their post-*development* state as nearly as practicable for the applicable design storm to reduce flooding, streambank erosion, nonpoint and point source pollution and increases in stream temperature, and to maintain the integrity of stream channels and aquatic habitats;
- (3) Establishing minimum post-*development* stormwater management standards and design criteria for the regulation and control of stormwater runoff quantity and quality;
- (4) Establishing design and review criteria for the construction, function, and use of *structural stormwater BMPs* that may be used to meet the minimum post-*development* stormwater management standards;
- (5) Encouraging the use of better management and site design practices, such as the use of vegetated conveyances for stormwater and the preservation of greenspace, riparian buffers, and other conservation areas to the maximum extent practicable;
- (6) Establishing provisions for the long-term responsibility for and maintenance of *structural and nonstructural stormwater BMPs* to ensure that they

continue to function as designed, are maintained appropriately, and pose no threat to public safety;

- (7) Establishing administrative procedures for the submission, review, approval and disapproval of *stormwater management plans*, for the inspection of approved projects, and to assure appropriate long-term maintenance.

## **Sec. 10.490 Applicability and Jurisdiction**

### a.) General

Beginning with and subsequent to its effective date, this ordinance shall be applicable to all *development* and *redevelopment*, including, but not limited to, site plan applications, planned unit developments, grading applications, and subdivision applications within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Graham, unless exempt pursuant to Subsection (b) of this Division, Exemptions, below.

### b.) Exemptions

*Development* that cumulatively disturbs less than one acre and is not part of a larger common plan of *development* or sale is exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.

*Redevelopment* that cumulatively disturbs less than one acre and is not part of a larger common plan of *development* or sale is exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.

*Development* and *redevelopment* that disturb less than one acre are not exempt if such activities are part of a *larger common plan of development or sale*, even though multiple, separate or distinct activities take place at different times on different schedules.

Activities that are exempt from permit requirements of Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, as specified in 40 CFR 232 (primarily, ongoing farming and forestry activities) are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.

### c.) No Development *or* Redevelopment Until Compliance and Permit.

No *development* or *redevelopment* shall occur except in compliance with the provisions of this ordinance or unless exempted. No *development* for which a permit is required pursuant to this ordinance shall occur except in compliance with the provisions, conditions, and limitations of the permit.

d.) Stormwater Map

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply within the areas designated on the map titled "Phase II Stormwater Map of City of Graham, North Carolina" ("the Stormwater Map"), which is adopted simultaneously herewith. The Stormwater Map and all explanatory matter contained thereon accompanies and is hereby made a part of this ordinance.

The Stormwater Map shall be kept on file by the Stormwater Administrator and shall be updated to take into account changes in the land area covered by this ordinance and the geographic location of all *structural BMPs* permitted under this ordinance. In the event of a dispute, the applicability of this ordinance to a particular area of land or BMP shall be determined by reference to the North Carolina Statutes, the North Carolina Administrative Code, and local zoning and jurisdictional boundary ordinances.

**Sec. 10.491 Interpretation**

a.) Meaning and Intent

All provisions, terms, phrases, and expressions contained in this ordinance shall be construed according to the general and specific purposes set forth in Section 10-489, Purpose. If a different or more specific meaning is given for a term defined elsewhere in The City of Graham's development ordinances, the meaning and application of the term in this ordinance shall control for purposes of application of this ordinance.

b.) Text Controls in Event of Conflict

In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the text of this ordinance and any heading, caption, figure, illustration, table, or map, the text shall control.

c.) Authority for Interpretation

The Stormwater Administrator has authority to determine the interpretation of this ordinance. Any person may request an interpretation by submitting a written request to the Stormwater Administrator who shall respond in writing within 30 days. The Stormwater Administrator shall keep on file a record of all written interpretations of this ordinance.

d.) References to Statutes, Regulations, and Documents

Whenever reference is made to a resolution, ordinance, statute, regulation, manual (including the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual*), or document, it shall be construed as a reference to the most recent edition of such that has been finalized

and published with due provision for notice and comment, unless otherwise specifically stated.

e.) Computation of Time

The time in which an act is to be done shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last day. If a deadline or required date of action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday observed by the City of Graham, the deadline or required date of action shall be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday observed by the City of Graham. References to days are calendar days unless otherwise stated.

f.) Delegation of Authority

Any act authorized by this Ordinance to be carried out by the Stormwater Administrator of City of Graham may be carried out by his or her designee.

g.) Usage

(1) Mandatory and Discretionary Terms

The words “shall,” “must,” and “will” are mandatory in nature, establishing an obligation or duty to comply with the particular provision. The words “may” and “should” are permissive in nature.

(2) Conjunctions

Unless the context clearly indicates the contrary, conjunctions shall be interpreted as follows: The word “and” indicates that all connected items, conditions, provisions or events apply. The word “or” indicates that one or more of the connected items, conditions, provisions or events apply.

(3) Tense, Plurals, and Gender

Words used in the present tense include the future tense. Words used in the singular number include the plural number and the plural number includes the singular number, unless the context of the particular usage clearly indicates otherwise. Words used in the masculine gender include the feminine gender, and vice versa.

h.) Measurement and Computation

Lot area refers to the amount of horizontal land area contained inside the lot lines of a lot or site.

## **Sec. 10.492 Definitions**

When used in this Ordinance, the following words and terms shall have the meaning set forth in this section, unless other provisions of this Ordinance specifically indicate otherwise.

### ***1-year, 24-hour storm***

A stormwater event with an intensity expected to be equaled or exceeded, on average, once in 12 months and with a duration of 24 hours. The 1-year, 24 hour storm produces approximately 3.0 inches of rain in the Graham area.

### ***Built-upon area (BUA)***

That portion of a ***development*** project that is covered by impervious or partially impervious surface including, but not limited to, buildings; pavement and gravel areas such as roads, parking lots, and paths; and recreation facilities such as tennis courts. “Built-upon area” does not include a wooden slatted deck, the water area of a swimming pool, or pervious or partially pervious paving material to the extent that the paving material absorbs water or allows water to infiltrate through the paving material.

### ***Department***

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

### ***Development***

Any land disturbing activity which adds to or changes the amount of impervious or partially pervious cover on a land area or which otherwise decreases the infiltration of precipitation into the soil, other than rebuilding activity that does not qualify as redevelopment.

### ***Division***

The Division of Water Quality in the North Carolina **Department of Environment and Natural Resources**.

### ***High-density project***

Any project that exceeds the low density threshold for dwelling units per acre or built-upon area.

### ***Larger common plan of development or sale***

Any area where multiple separate and distinct construction or land disturbing activities will occur under one plan. A plan is any announcement or piece of documentation (including but not limited to a sign, public notice or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, loan application, drawing, permit application, zoning request, or computer design) or physical demarcation (including but not limited to boundary signs, lot stakes, or surveyor markings) indicating that construction activities may occur on a specific plot.

### ***Low-density project***

A project that has no more than two dwelling units per acre or twenty-four percent ***built-upon area*** (BUA) for all residential and non-residential ***development***. A project with an overall density at or below the relevant low-density threshold, but containing areas with a density greater than the overall project density, may be considered low density as long as the project meets or exceeds the post-construction model practices for low-density projects, as defined in DIVISION 3. Sec. 10.504, and locates the higher density in upland areas and away from surface waters and drainageways to the maximum extent practicable.

### ***Owner***

The legal or beneficial owner of land, including but not limited to a mortgagee or vendee in possession, receiver, executor, trustee, or long-term or commercial lessee, or any other person or entity holding proprietary rights in the property or having legal power of management and control of the property. “Owner” shall include long-term commercial tenants; management entities, such as those charged with or engaged in the management of properties for profit; and every person or entity having joint ownership of the property. A secured lender not in possession of the property does not constitute an owner, unless the secured lender is included within the meaning of “owner” under another description in this definition, such as a management entity.

### ***Redevelopment***

Any *development* on previously-developed land other than a rebuilding activity that results in no net increase in *built-upon area* and provides equal or greater stormwater control than the previous *development*.

### ***Runoff***

The water from rain, snowmelt or irrigation that flows over the land surface and is not absorbed into the ground, instead flowing into streams or other surface waters or land depressions.

### ***Stormwater BMP Design Manual***

The Stormwater Best Management Practice Design Manual approved for use in Phase II jurisdictions by the *Division* for the proper implementation of the requirements of the federal Phase II stormwater program. All references herein to the ***Stormwater BMP Design Manual*** are to the latest published edition or revision.

### ***Structural BMP***

A physical device designed to trap, settle out, or filter pollutants from stormwater runoff; to alter or reduce stormwater runoff velocity, amount, timing, or other characteristics; to approximate the pre-development hydrology on a developed site; or to achieve any combination of these goals. Structural BMP includes physical practices such as constructed wetlands, vegetative practices, filter strips, grassed swales, and other methods installed or created on real property. “Structural BMP” is synonymous with “structural

practice”, “stormwater control facility,” “stormwater control practice,” “stormwater treatment practice,” “stormwater management practice,” “stormwater control measures,” “structural stormwater treatment systems,” and similar terms used in this ordinance.

### ***Substantial progress***

For the purposes of determining whether sufficient progress has been made on an approved plan, one or more of the following construction activities toward the completion of a site or subdivision plan shall occur: obtaining a grading permit and conducting grading activity on a continuous basis and not discontinued for more than thirty (30) days; or installation and approval of on-site infrastructure; or obtaining a building permit for the construction and approval of a building foundation. “Substantial progress” for purposes of determining whether an approved plan is null and void is not necessarily the same as “substantial expenditures” used for determining vested rights pursuant to applicable law.

## **Sec. 10.493 Stormwater BMP Design Manual**

### a.) Reference to *Stormwater BMP Design Manual*

The Stormwater Administrator shall use the policy, criteria, and information, including technical specifications and standards, in the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual* as the basis for decisions about stormwater permits and about the design, implementation and performance of *structural and non-structural stormwater BMPs*.

The *Stormwater BMP Design Manual* includes a list of acceptable stormwater treatment practices, including the specific design criteria for each stormwater practice. Stormwater treatment practices that are designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with these design and sizing criteria will be presumed to meet the minimum water quality performance standards of the Phase II laws.

### b.) Relationship of *Stormwater BMP Design Manual* to Other Laws and Regulations

If the specifications or guidelines of the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual* are more restrictive or apply a higher standard than other laws or regulations, that fact shall not prevent application of the specifications or guidelines in the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual*.

### c.) Changes to Standards and Specifications

If the standards, specifications, guidelines, policies, criteria, or other information in the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual* are amended subsequent to the submittal of an application for approval pursuant to this ordinance but prior to approval, the new information shall control and shall be utilized in reviewing the application and in implementing this ordinance with regard to the application.

#### **Sec. 10.494 Relationship to Other Laws, Regulations and Private Agreements**

a.) Conflict of Laws

This ordinance is not intended to modify or repeal any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law. The requirements of this ordinance are in addition to the requirements of any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law. Where any provision of this ordinance imposes restrictions different from those imposed by any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law, whichever provision is more restrictive or imposes higher protective standards for human or environmental health, safety, and welfare shall control.

b.) Private Agreements

This ordinance is not intended to revoke or repeal any easement, covenant, or other private agreement. However, where the regulations of this ordinance are more restrictive or impose higher standards or requirements than such an easement, covenant, or other private agreement, the requirements of this ordinance shall govern. Nothing in this ordinance shall modify or repeal any private covenant or deed restriction, but such covenant or restriction shall not legitimize any failure to comply with this ordinance. In no case shall the City of Graham be obligated to enforce the provisions of any easements, covenants, or agreements between private parties.

#### **Sec. 10.495 Severability**

If the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this ordinance.

#### **Sec. 10.496 Effective Date and Transitional Provisions**

a.) Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective after the approval of both the City of Graham and the Division representing the State of North Carolina or July 1, 2007, whichever is the last to occur.

b.) Final Approvals, Complete Applications

All *development* and *redevelopment* projects which have obtained a vested right as specified in Section 10.255 of the Graham Development Ordinance, or projects for which complete and/or full applications were submitted and approved by the

City of Graham prior to the effective date of this ordinance, and which remain valid, unexpired, unrevoked and not otherwise terminated at the time of *development* or *redevelopment* shall be exempt from complying with all provisions of this ordinance dealing with the control and/or management of post-construction runoff, but shall be required to comply with all other applicable provisions.

A phased development plan shall be deemed approved prior to the effective date of this ordinance if it has been approved by all necessary government units, it remains valid, unexpired, unrevoked and not otherwise terminated, and it shows:

- (1) For the initial or first phase of development, the type and intensity of use for a specific parcel or parcels, including at a minimum, the boundaries of the project and a subdivision plan that has been approved.
- (2) For any subsequent phase of development, sufficient detail so that implementation of the requirements of this ordinance to that phase of development would require a material change in that phase of the plan.

c.) Violations Continue

Any violation of provisions existing on the effective date of this ordinance shall continue to be a violation under this ordinance and be subject to penalties and enforcement under this ordinance unless the use, *development*, construction, or other activity complies with the provisions of this ordinance.

## **DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES**

### **Sec. 10.497 Review and Decision-Making Entities**

#### a.) Stormwater Administrator

##### (1) Designation

The Stormwater Administer shall be the City Manager or his designee. The Stormwater Administer shall administer and enforce this ordinance.

#### b.) Powers and Duties

In addition to the powers and duties that may be conferred by other provisions of the City of Graham code and other laws, the Stormwater Administrator shall have the following powers and duties under this ordinance:

- (1) To review and approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove applications for approval of plans pursuant to this ordinance.
- (2) To make determinations and render interpretations of this ordinance.
- (3) To establish application requirements and schedules for submittal and review of applications and appeals, to review and make recommendations to the Graham City Council on applications for *development or redevelopment* approvals.
- (4) To enforce the provisions of this ordinance in accordance with its enforcement provisions.
- (5) To maintain records, maps, forms and other official materials as relate to the adoption, amendment, enforcement, and administration of this ordinance.
- (6) To provide expertise and technical assistance to the Graham City Council, upon request.
- (7) To designate appropriate other person(s) who shall carry out the powers and duties of the Stormwater Administrator.
- (8) To take any other action necessary to administer the provisions of this ordinance.

### **Sec. 10.498 Review Procedures**

#### a.) Permit Required; Must Apply for Permit

A stormwater permit is required for all *development* and *redevelopment* unless exempt pursuant to this ordinance. A permit may only be issued subsequent to a properly submitted and reviewed permit application, pursuant to this section.

b.) Effect of Permit

A stormwater permit shall govern the design, installation, and construction of stormwater management and control practices on the site, including *structural BMPs* and elements of site design for stormwater management other than *structural BMPs*.

The permit is intended to provide a mechanism for the review, approval, and inspection of the approach to be used for the management and control of stormwater for the *development* or *redevelopment* site consistent with the requirements of this ordinance, whether the approach consists of *structural BMPs* or other techniques such as low-impact or low-density design. The permit does not continue in existence indefinitely after the completion of the project; rather, compliance after project construction is assured by the maintenance provisions of this ordinance.

c.) Authority to File Applications

All applications required pursuant to this Code shall be submitted to the Stormwater Administrator by the land *owner* or the land *owner's* duly authorized agent.

d.) Establishment of Application Requirements, Schedule, and Fees

(1) Application Contents and Form

The Stormwater Administrator shall establish requirements for the content and form of all applications and shall amend and update those requirements from time to time. At a minimum, the stormwater permit application shall describe in detail how *post-development* stormwater runoff will be controlled and managed, the design of all stormwater facilities and practices, and how the proposed project will meet the requirements of this ordinance.

(2) Submission Schedule

The Stormwater Administrator shall establish a submission schedule for applications. The schedule shall establish deadlines by which complete applications must be submitted for the purpose of ensuring that there is adequate time to review applications, and that the various stages in the review process are accommodated.

e.) Permit Review Fees

The Graham City Council shall establish permit review fees as well as policies regarding refund of any fees upon withdrawal of an application, and may amend and update the fees and policies from time to time.

f.) Administrative Manual

For applications required under this Code, the Stormwater Administrator shall compile the application requirements, submission schedule, fee schedule, a copy of this ordinance, and information on how and where to obtain the Stormwater BMP Design Manual in an Administrative Manual, which shall be made available to the public.

**Sec. 10.499 Submittal of Complete Application**

Applications shall be submitted to the Stormwater Administrator pursuant to the application submittal schedule in the form established by the Stormwater Administrator, along with the appropriate fee established pursuant to this section.

An application shall be considered as timely submitted only when it contains all elements of a complete application pursuant to this ordinance, along with the appropriate fee. If the Stormwater Administrator finds that an application is incomplete, the applicant shall be notified of the deficient elements and shall be provided with an opportunity to submit a complete application. However, the submittal of an incomplete application shall not suffice to meet a deadline contained in the submission schedule established above.

a.) Review

Within 30 working days after a complete application is submitted, the Stormwater Administrator shall review the application and determine whether the application complies with the standards of this ordinance.

(1) Approval

If the Stormwater Administrator finds that the application complies with the standards of this ordinance, the Stormwater Administrator shall approve the application. The Stormwater Administrator may impose conditions of approval as needed to ensure compliance with this ordinance. The conditions shall be included as part of the approval.

(2) Fails to Comply

If the Stormwater Administrator finds that the application fails to comply with the standards of this ordinance, the Stormwater Administrator shall notify the applicant and shall indicate how the application fails to comply. The applicant shall have an opportunity to submit a revised application.

(3) Revision and Subsequent Review

A complete revised application shall be reviewed by the Stormwater Administrator within 15 working days after its re-submittal and shall be approved, approved with conditions or disapproved.

If a revised application is not re-submitted within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the applicant was notified, the application shall be considered withdrawn, and a new submittal for the same or substantially the same project shall be required along with the appropriate fee for a new submittal.

One re-submittal of a revised application may be submitted without payment of an additional permit review fee. Any re-submittal after the first re-submittal shall be accompanied by a permit review fee additional fee, as established pursuant to this ordinance.

## **Sec. 10.500 Applications for Approval**

### a.) Concept Plan and Consultation Meeting

Before a stormwater management permit application is deemed complete, the Stormwater Administrator or developer may request a consultation on a concept plan for the post-construction stormwater management system to be utilized in the proposed *development* project. This consultation meeting should take place at the time of the sketch or preliminary plan of subdivision or other early step in the *development* process. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the post-construction stormwater management measures necessary for the proposed project, as well as to discuss and assess constraints, opportunities and potential approaches to stormwater management designs before formal site design engineering is commenced. Other relevant resource protection plans should be consulted in the discussion of the concept plan.

To accomplish this goal, the following information should be included in the concept plan, which should be submitted in advance of the meeting:

#### (1) Existing Conditions / Proposed Site Plans

Existing conditions and proposed site layout sketch plans, which illustrate at a minimum: existing and proposed topography; perennial and intermittent streams; mapping of predominant soils from soil surveys (if available); boundaries of existing predominant vegetation; proposed limits of clearing and grading; and location of existing and proposed roads, buildings, parking areas and other impervious surfaces.

Existing and proposed topography shall be shown at two-foot contour intervals on the tract to be developed and a minimum of 100-feet beyond the property lines. All contour information shall be based on mean sea level and accurate to within one-half foot.

#### (2) Natural Resources Inventory

A written or graphic inventory of the natural resources at the site and surrounding area as it exists prior to the commencement of the project. This

description should include a discussion of soil conditions, forest cover, geologic features, topography, wetlands, and native vegetative areas on the site, as well as the location and boundaries of other natural feature protection and conservation areas such as lakes, ponds, floodplains, stream buffers and other setbacks (e.g., drinking water well setbacks, septic setbacks, etc.). Particular attention should be paid to environmentally sensitive features that provide particular opportunities or constraints for *development* and stormwater management.

(3) Stormwater Management System Concept Plan

A written or graphic concept plan of the proposed post-*development* stormwater management system including: preliminary selection and location of proposed structural stormwater controls; low impact design elements; location of existing and proposed conveyance systems such as grass channels, swales, and storm drains; flow paths; location of floodplain/floodway limits; relationship of site to upstream and downstream properties and drainages; and preliminary location of proposed stream channel modifications, such as bridge or culvert crossings.

b.) Stormwater Management Permit Application

The stormwater management permit application shall detail how post-*development* stormwater runoff will be controlled and managed and how the proposed project will meet the requirements of this ordinance, including Division 3, Standards. All such plans shall be prepared by a qualified registered North Carolina professional engineer, surveyor, soil scientist or landscape architect, and the engineer, surveyor, soil scientist or landscape architect shall perform services only in their area of competence,

The plans shall contain a signed and sealed statement certifying that the design of all stormwater management facilities and practices will control and treat the runoff from the from the first one inch of rain over the total drainage area, that the designs and plans are sufficient to comply with applicable standards and policies found in the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual*, and that the designs and plans ensure compliance with this ordinance.

The submittal shall include all of the information required in the submittal checklist established by the Stormwater Administrator. Incomplete submittals shall be treated pursuant to Section 10-499.

c.) As-Built Plans and Final Approval

Upon completion of a project, and before a certificate of occupancy shall be granted, the applicant shall certify, under seal, that the completed project is in accordance with the approved stormwater management plans and designs and

with the requirements of this ordinance. The applicant shall submit all of the information required in the As-Built submittal checklist established by the Stormwater Administrator. A final inspection and approval by the Stormwater Administrator shall occur before the release of any performance securities.

d.) Other Permits

No certificate of compliance or occupancy shall be issued by the City of Graham without final as-built plans and a final inspection and approval by the Stormwater Administrator, except where multiple units are served by the stormwater practice or facilities, in which case the City of Graham may elect to withhold a percentage of permits or certificates of occupancy until as-built plans are submitted and final inspection and approval has occurred.

**Sec. 10.501 Approvals**

a.) Effect of Approval

Approval authorizes the applicant to go forward with only the specific plans and activities authorized in the permit. The approval shall not be construed to exempt the applicant from obtaining other applicable approvals from local, state, and federal authorities.

b.) Time Limit/Expiration

An approved plan shall become null and void if the applicant fails to make *substantial progress* on the site within two years after the date of approval.

**Sec. 10.502 Appeals**

Any aggrieved person affected by any decision, order, requirement, or determination relating to the interpretation or application of this ordinance and made by the Stormwater Administrator may file an appeal to the Board of Adjustment within 30 days. Such appeals shall be taken within times prescribed by the board of adjustment by general rule, by filing with the Stormwater Administrator and with the board of adjustment a notice of appeal specifying the ground thereof. The Stormwater Administrator shall forthwith transmit to the board all the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken. The board of adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal or other matter referred to it, give public notice thereof, as well as due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the same within a reasonable time. At the hearing any party in interest may appear in person or by agent or attorney.

### **DIVISION 3. STANDARDS**

#### **Sec. 10.503 General Standards**

All *development* and *redevelopment* to which this ordinance applies shall comply with the standards of this section. In addition to the Stormwater BMP Design Manual, the design and construction of stormwater improvements shall also be according to the City of Graham *Storm Sewer Design Manual* which requirements are hereby adopted and made a part of this Ordinance as if set out in full.

#### **Sec. 10.504 Development Standards for Low-Density Projects**

***Low-density projects*** (no more than two dwelling units per acre or twenty-four percent built-upon area for all residential and non-residential development) shall comply with each of the following standards:

- a.) Stormwater runoff from the *development* shall be transported from the *development* by vegetated conveyances to the maximum extent practicable.
- b.) All ***built-upon area*** shall be at a minimum of 30 feet landward of all perennial and intermittent surface waters. A perennial or intermittent surface water shall be deemed present if the feature is approximately shown on either the most recent version of the soil survey map prepared by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the most recent version of the 1:24,000 scale (7.5 minute) quadrangle topographic maps prepared by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS). An exception to this requirement may be allowed when surface waters are not present in accordance with the provisions of 15A NCAC 2B .0233 (3)(a) or similar site-specific determination made using *Division*-approved methodology.
- c.) The approval of the stormwater permit shall require an enforceable restriction on property usage that runs with the land, such as a recorded deed restriction or protective covenants, to ensure that future *development* and *redevelopment* maintains the site consistent with the approved project plans.

#### **Sec. 10.505 Development standards for High-Density Projects**

***High-density projects*** (any project that exceeds the low density thresholds for dwelling units per acre or built-upon area) shall implement structural stormwater management systems that comply with each of the following standards:

- a.) Control and treat the runoff from the first one inch of rain;

- b.) Runoff volume drawdown time shall be a minimum of 48 hours, but not more than 120 hours;
- c.) Discharge the storage volume at a rate equal to or less than the predevelopment discharge rate for the one-year, 24-hour storm;
- d.) All structural stormwater treatment systems used to meet the requirements of the program shall be designed to have a minimum of 85% average annual removal for Total Suspended Solids (TSS);
- e.) General engineering design criteria for all projects shall be in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .1008(c), as explained in the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual*;
- f.) All ***built-upon area*** shall be at a minimum of 30 feet landward of all perennial and intermittent surface waters. A perennial or intermittent surface water shall be deemed present if the feature is approximately shown on either the most recent version of the soil survey map prepared by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the most recent version of the 1:24,000 scale (7.5 minute) quadrangle topographic maps prepared by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS). An exception to this requirement may be allowed when surface waters are not present in accordance with the provisions of 15A NCAC 2B .0233 (3)(a) or similar site-specific determination made using *Division*-approved methodology.
- g.) The approval of the stormwater permit shall require an enforceable restriction on property usage that runs with the land, such as recorded deed restrictions or protective covenants, to ensure that future *development* and *redevelopment* maintains the *site* consistent with the approved project plans.

**Sec. 10.506 Standards for Stormwater Control Measures**

- a.) Evaluation According to Contents of *Stormwater BMP Design Manual*

All stormwater control measures and stormwater treatment practices (also referred to as Best Management Practices, or BMPs) required under this ordinance shall be evaluated by the Stormwater Administrator according to the policies, criteria, and information, including technical specifications and standards and the specific design criteria for each stormwater practice, in the ***Stormwater BMP Design Manual***. The Stormwater Administrator shall determine whether proposed BMPs will be adequate to meet the requirements of this ordinance.

- b.) Determination of Adequacy; Presumptions and Alternatives

Stormwater treatment practices that are designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the criteria and specifications in the *Stormwater BMP Design*

*Manual* will be presumed to meet the minimum water quality and quantity performance standards of this ordinance. Whenever an applicant proposes to utilize a practice or practices not designed and constructed in accordance with the criteria and specifications in the *Stormwater BMP Design Manual*, the applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the practice(s) will satisfy the minimum water quality and quantity performance standards of this ordinance. The Stormwater Administrator may require the applicant to provide the documentation, calculations, and examples necessary for the Stormwater Administrator to determine whether such an affirmative showing is made.

c.) Separation from Seasonal High Water Table

For BMPs that require a separation from the seasonal high-water table, the separation shall be provided by at least 12 inches of naturally occurring soil above the seasonal high-water table.

**Sec. 10.507 Dedication of BMP's, Facilities, and Improvements**

Unless otherwise approved, ownership of any existing or future stormwater management facilities shall remain with the owner of the property or a legally established property owner's association. Such facilities shall meet all the requirements of this ordinance and include adequate and perpetual access and sufficient area, by easement or otherwise, for inspection and regular maintenance.

**Sec. 10.508 Variances**

- a.) Any person may petition the Board of Adjustment for a variance granting permission to use the person's land in a manner otherwise prohibited by this ordinance. To qualify for a variance, the petitioner must show all of the following:
- (1) Unnecessary hardships would result from strict application of this ordinance.
  - (2) The hardships result from conditions that are peculiar to the property, such as the location, size, or topography of the property.
  - (3) The hardships did not result from actions taken by the petitioner.
  - (4) The requested variance is consistent with the spirit, purpose, and intent of this ordinance; will secure public safety and welfare; and will preserve substantial justice.
- b.) The City of Graham may impose reasonable and appropriate conditions and safeguards upon any variance it grants.

c.) Statutory exceptions

Notwithstanding subdivision (a.) of this section, exceptions from the 30-foot landward location of built-upon area requirement as well as the deed restrictions and protective covenants requirements shall be granted in any of the following instances:

- (1) When there is a lack of practical alternatives for a road crossing, railroad crossing, bridge, airport facility, or utility crossing as long as it is located, designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize disturbance, provide maximum nutrient removal, protect against erosion and sedimentation, have the least adverse effects on aquatic life and habitat, and protect water quality to the maximum extent practicable through the use of BMPs.
- (2) When there is a lack of practical alternatives for a stormwater management facility; a stormwater management pond; or a utility, including, but not limited to, water, sewer, or gas construction and maintenance corridor, as long as it is located 15 feet landward of all perennial and intermittent surface waters and as long as it is located, designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize disturbance, provide maximum nutrient removal, protect against erosion and sedimentation, have the least adverse effects on aquatic life and habitat, and protect water quality to the maximum extent practicable through the use of BMPs.

**Sec. 10.509 Nutrient Sensitive Waters**

In addition to the standards for stormwater handling set out in the *NC DENR Stormwater BMP Design Manual*, development and redevelopment shall be designed to implement the best stormwater practices that reduce nutrient loading, while still meeting the other requirements of this ordinance.

**Sec. 10.510 Nutrient Application Management Program**

- a.) The City of Graham recommends anyone applying fertilizer for pay complete training provided by either the Cooperative Extension Service or the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Division of Water Quality. This training will provide participants with an understanding of the value and importance of proper management of nitrogen and phosphorus, the water quality impacts of poor nutrient management, and the ability to understand and properly carry out a nutrient management plan.

**Sec. 10.511 On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems**

For new development and redevelopment that includes the use of on-site wastewater treatment systems, a copy of the approved system permit issued by the Alamance County Environmental Health Department shall be provided to the Stormwater Administrator.



## **DIVISION 4. MAINTENANCE**

### **Sec. 10.512 General Standards for Maintenance**

#### a.) Function of BMPs As Intended

The *owner* of each *structural BMP* installed pursuant to this ordinance shall maintain and operate it so as to preserve and continue its function in controlling stormwater quality and quantity at the degree or amount of function for which the *structural BMP* was designed.

#### b.) Annual Maintenance Inspection and Report

The person responsible for maintenance of any *structural BMP* installed pursuant to this ordinance shall submit to the Stormwater Administrator an inspection report from one of the following persons performing services only in their area of competence: a qualified registered North Carolina professional engineer, surveyor, landscape architect, soil scientist, aquatic biologist, or person certified by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for stormwater treatment practice inspection and maintenance. The inspection report shall contain all of the following:

- (1) The name and address of the land *owner*;
- (2) The recorded book and page number of the lot of each *structural BMP*;
- (3) A statement that an inspection was made of all *structural BMPs*;
- (4) The date the inspection was made;
- (5) A statement that all inspected *structural BMPs* are performing properly and are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the approved maintenance agreement required by this ordinance; and
- (6) The original signature and seal of the engineer, surveyor, or landscape architect.

All inspection reports shall be on forms approved by the Stormwater Administrator. An original inspection report shall be provided to the Stormwater Administrator beginning one year from the date of as-built certification and each year thereafter on or before the date of the as-built certification.

- (7) Each annual report shall include color photographs of each BMP.

### **Sec. 10.513 Operation and Maintenance Agreement**

#### a.) In General

Prior to the conveyance or transfer of any lot or building site to be served by a *structural BMP* pursuant to this ordinance, and prior to issuance of any permit for *development* or *redevelopment* requiring a *structural BMP* pursuant to this ordinance, the applicant or *owner* of the site must execute an operation and maintenance agreement that shall be binding on all subsequent *owners* of the site, portions of the site, and lots or parcels served by the *structural BMP*. Until the transference of all property, sites, or lots served by the *structural BMP*, the original *owner* or applicant shall have primary responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the maintenance agreement.

The operation and maintenance agreement shall require the *owner* or *owners* to maintain, repair and, if necessary, reconstruct the *structural BMP*, and shall state the terms, conditions, and schedule of maintenance for the *structural BMP*. In addition, it shall grant to the City of Graham a right of entry in the event that the Stormwater Administrator has reason to believe it has become necessary to inspect, monitor, maintain, repair, or reconstruct the *structural BMP*; however, in no case shall the right of entry, of itself, confer an obligation on the City of Graham to assume responsibility for the *structural BMP*.

The operation and maintenance agreement must be approved by the Stormwater Administrator prior to plan approval, and it shall be referenced on the final plat and shall be recorded with the Alamance County Register of Deeds upon final plat approval. A copy of the recorded maintenance agreement shall be given to the Stormwater Administrator within fourteen (14) days following its recordation.

b.) Special Requirement for Homeowners' and Other Associations

For all *structural BMPs* required pursuant to this ordinance and that are to be or are owned and maintained by a homeowners' association, property owners' association, or similar entity, the required operation and maintenance agreement shall include all of the following provisions:

- (1) Acknowledgment that the association shall continuously operate and maintain the stormwater control and management facilities.
- (2) Establishment of an escrow account, which can be spent solely for sediment removal, structural, biological or vegetative replacement, major repair, or reconstruction of the *structural BMPs*. If *structural BMPs* are not performing adequately or as intended or are not properly maintained, the City of Graham, in its sole discretion, may remedy the situation, and in such instances the City of Graham shall be fully reimbursed from the escrow account. Escrowed funds may be spent by the association for sediment removal, structural, biological or vegetative replacement, major repair, and reconstruction of the *structural BMPs*, provided that the City of Graham shall first consent to the expenditure.

- (3) Both developer contribution and annual sinking funds shall fund the escrow account. Prior to plat recordation or issuance of construction permits, whichever shall first occur, the developer shall pay into the escrow account an amount equal to fifteen (15) per cent of the initial construction cost of the *structural BMPs*. Two-thirds (2/3) of the total amount of sinking fund budget shall be deposited into the escrow account within the first five (5) years and the full amount shall be deposited within ten (10) years following initial construction of the *structural BMPs*. Funds shall be deposited each year into the escrow account. A portion of the annual assessments of the association shall include an allocation into the escrow account. Any funds drawn down from the escrow account shall be replaced in accordance with the schedule of anticipated work used to create the sinking fund budget.
- (4) The percent of developer contribution and lengths of time to fund the escrow account may be varied by the City of Graham depending on the design and materials of the stormwater control and management facility.
- (5) Granting to the City of Graham a right of entry to inspect, monitor, maintain, repair, and reconstruct *structural BMPs*.
- (6) Allowing the City of Graham to recover from the association and its members any and all costs the City of Graham expends to maintain or repair the *structural BMPs* or to correct any operational deficiencies. Failure to pay the City of Graham all of its expended costs, after forty-five days written notice, shall constitute a breach of the agreement. In case of a deficiency, the City of Graham shall thereafter be entitled to bring an action against the association and its members to pay, or foreclose upon the lien hereby authorized by the agreement against the property, or both, in case of a deficiency. Interest, collection costs, and attorney fees shall be added to the recovery.
- (7) A statement that this agreement shall not obligate the City of Graham to maintain or repair any *structural BMPs*, and the City of Graham shall not be liable to any person for the condition or operation of *structural BMPs*.
- (8) A statement that this agreement shall not in any way diminish, limit, or restrict the right of the City of Graham to enforce any of its ordinances as authorized by law.
- (9) A provision indemnifying and holding harmless the City of Graham for any costs and injuries arising from or related to the structural BMP, unless the City of Graham has agreed in writing to assume the maintenance responsibility for the BMP and has accepted dedication of any and all rights necessary to carry out that maintenance.

#### **Sec. 10.514 Inspection Program**

Inspections and inspection programs by the City of Graham may be conducted or established on any reasonable basis, including but not limited to routine inspections; random inspections;

inspections based upon complaints or other notice of possible violations; and joint inspections with other agencies inspecting under environmental or safety laws. Inspections may include, but are not limited to, reviewing maintenance and repair records; sampling discharges, surface water, groundwater, and material or water in BMPs; and evaluating the condition of BMPs.

If the *owner* or occupant of any property refuses to permit such inspection, the Stormwater Administrator shall proceed to obtain an administrative search warrant pursuant to G.S. 15-27.2 or its successor. No person shall obstruct, hamper or interfere with the Stormwater Administrator while carrying out his or her official duties.

### **Sec. 10.515 Performance Security for Installation and Maintenance**

a.) Shall Be Required

The City of Graham shall, at its discretion, require the submittal of a performance security or bond with surety, cash escrow, letter of credit or other acceptable legal arrangement prior to issuance of a permit in order to ensure that the *structural BMPs* are

- (1) installed by the permit holder as required by the approved stormwater management plan, and/or
- (2) maintained by the *owner* as required by the operation and maintenance agreement.

b.) Amount

(1) Installation

The amount of an installation performance security shall be 150% of the total estimated construction cost of the BMPs approved under the permit.

(2) Maintenance

The amount of a maintenance performance security shall be the present value of an annuity of perpetual duration based on a reasonable estimate of the annual cost of inspection, operation and maintenance of the BMPs approved under the permit, at a discount rate that reflects the jurisdiction's cost of borrowing minus a reasonable estimate of long term inflation.

c.) Uses of Performance Security

(1) Forfeiture Provisions

The performance security shall contain forfeiture provisions for failure, after proper notice, to complete work within the time specified, or to initiate or

maintain any actions which may be required of the applicant or *owner* in accordance with this ordinance, approvals issued pursuant to this ordinance, or an operation and maintenance agreement established pursuant to this ordinance.

(2) Default

Upon default of the *owner* to construct, maintain, repair and, if necessary, reconstruct any *structural BMP* in accordance with the applicable permit or operation and maintenance agreement, the Stormwater Administrator shall obtain and use all or any portion of the security to make necessary improvements based on an engineering estimate. Such expenditure of funds shall only be made after requesting the *owner* to comply with the permit or maintenance agreement. In the event of a default triggering the use of installation performance security, the City of Graham shall not return any of the unused deposited cash funds or other security, which shall be retained for maintenance.

(3) Costs in Excess of Performance Security

If City of Graham takes action upon such failure by the applicant or *owner*, the City may collect from the applicant or *owner* the difference between the amount of the reasonable cost of such action and the amount of the security held, in addition to any other penalties or damages due.

(4) Refund

Within sixty days of the final approval, the installation performance security shall be refunded to the applicant or terminated, except any amount attributable to the cost (plus 25%) of landscaping installation and ongoing maintenance associated with the BMPs covered by the security. Any such landscaping shall be inspected one (1) year after installation with replacement for compliance with the approved plans and specifications and, if in compliance, the portion of the financial security attributable to landscaping shall be released.

**Sec. 10.516 Notice to Owners**

a.) Recorded Deed and Indications on Plat

The applicable operations and maintenance agreement pertaining to every *structural BMP* shall be referenced on the final plat and shall be recorded with the Alamance County Register of Deeds upon final plat approval. If no subdivision plat is recorded for the site, then the operations and maintenance agreement shall be recorded with the Alamance County Register of Deeds so as to appear in the chain of title of all subsequent purchasers under generally accepted searching principles.

b.) Signage

Where appropriate in the determination of the Stormwater Administrator to assure compliance with this ordinance, *structural BMPs* shall be posted with a conspicuous sign stating who is responsible for required maintenance and annual inspection. The sign shall be maintained so as to remain visible and legible.

**Sec. 10.517 Records of Installation and Maintenance Activities**

The *owner* of each *structural BMP* shall keep records of inspections, maintenance, and repairs for at least five years from the date of creation of the record and shall submit the same upon reasonable request to the Stormwater Administrator.

**Sec. 10.518 Nuisance**

The *owner* of each stormwater BMP, whether *structural* or *non-structural BMP*, shall maintain it so as not to create or result in a nuisance condition.

**Sec. 10.519 Maintenance Easement**

Every *structural BMP* installed pursuant to this ordinance shall be made accessible for adequate maintenance and repair by a maintenance easement. This access maintenance easement shall have a minimum width of 20 feet, a maximum slope of 15%, be connected to public right-of-way, be cleared, and be traversable by construction equipment. The easement shall be recorded and its terms shall specify who may make use of the easement and for what purposes.

## DIVISION 5. ENFORCEMENT AND VIOLATIONS

### Sec. 10.520 General

a.) Authority to Enforce

The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced by the Stormwater Administrator, his or her designee, or any authorized agent of City of Graham. Whenever this section refers to the Stormwater Administrator, it includes his or her designee as well as any authorized agent of City of Graham.

b.) Violation Unlawful

Any failure to comply with an applicable requirement, prohibition, standard, or limitation imposed by this ordinance, or the terms or conditions of any permit or other *development* or *redevelopment* approval or authorization granted pursuant to this ordinance, is unlawful and shall constitute a violation of this ordinance.

c.) Each Day a Separate Offense

Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct violation or offense.

d.) Responsible Persons/Entities

Any person who erects, constructs, reconstructs, alters (whether actively or passively), or fails to erect, construct, reconstruct, alter, repair or maintain any structure, BMP, practice, or condition in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to the remedies, penalties, and/or enforcement actions in accordance with this section. Persons subject to the remedies and penalties set forth herein may include any architect, engineer, builder, contractor, developer, agency, or any other person who participates in, assists, directs, creates, causes, or maintains a condition that results in or constitutes a violation of this ordinance, or fails to take appropriate action, so that a violation of this ordinance results or persists; or an *owner*, any tenant or occupant, or any other person, who has control over, or responsibility for, the use or *development* of the property on which the violation occurs.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, responsible person(s) shall include but not be limited to:

(1) Person Maintaining Condition Resulting In or Constituting Violation

An architect, engineer, builder, contractor, developer, agency, or any other person who participates in, assists, directs, creates, causes, or maintains a

condition that constitutes a violation of this ordinance, or fails to take appropriate action, so that a violation of this ordinance results or persists.

(2) Responsibility for Land or Use of Land

The *owner* of the land on which the violation occurs, any tenant or occupant of the property, any person who is responsible for stormwater controls or practices pursuant to a private agreement or public document, or any person, who has control over, or responsibility for, the use, *development* or *redevelopment* of the property.

**Sec. 10.521 Remedies and Penalties**

The remedies and penalties provided for violations of this ordinance, whether civil or criminal, shall be cumulative and in addition to any other remedy provided by law, and may be exercised in any order.

a.) Remedies

(1) Withholding of Certificate of Occupancy

The Stormwater Administrator or other authorized agent may refuse to issue a certificate of occupancy for the building or other improvements constructed or being constructed on the site and served by the stormwater practices in question until the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise cured the violations described therein.

(2) Disapproval of Subsequent Permits and *Development* Approvals

As long as a violation of this ordinance continues and remains uncorrected, the Stormwater Administrator or other authorized agent may withhold, and the Planning Board of the City of Graham may disapprove, any request for permit or *development* approval or authorization provided for by this ordinance or the Planning Board of the City of Graham for the land on which the violation occurs.

(3) Injunction, Abatements, etc.

The City Council, may institute an action in a court of competent jurisdiction for a mandatory or prohibitory injunction and order of abatement to correct a violation of this ordinance. Any person violating this ordinance shall be subject to the full range of equitable remedies provided in the General Statutes or at common law.

(4) Correction as Public Health Nuisance, Costs as Lien, etc.

If the violation is deemed dangerous or prejudicial to the public health or public safety and is within the geographic limits prescribed by North Carolina G.S. § 160A-193, the Stormwater Administrator, with the authorization of the City Council, may cause the violation to be corrected and the costs to be assessed as a lien against the property.

(5) Stop Work Order

The Stormwater Administrator may issue a stop work order to the person(s) violating this ordinance. The stop work order shall remain in effect until the person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise cured the violation or violations described therein. The stop work order may be withdrawn or modified to enable the person to take the necessary remedial measures to cure such violation or violations.

b.) Civil Penalties

Violation of this ordinance may subject the violator to a civil penalty to be recovered in a civil action in the nature of a debt if the violator does not pay the penalty within 30 days after notice of the violation is issued by the Stormwater Administrator. Civil penalties may be assessed up to the full amount of penalty to which the City of Graham is subject for violations of its Phase II Stormwater permit.

c.) Criminal Penalties

Violation of this ordinance may be enforced as a misdemeanor subject to the maximum fine permissible under North Carolina law.

**Sec. 10.522 Procedures**

a.) Initiation/Complaint

Whenever a violation of this ordinance occurs, or is alleged to have occurred, any person may file a written complaint. Such complaint shall state fully the alleged violation and the basis thereof, and shall be filed with the Stormwater Administrator, who shall record the complaint. The complaint shall be investigated promptly by the Stormwater Administrator.

b.) Inspection

The Stormwater Administrator, or other authorized personnel, shall have the authority, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter and inspect any land, building, structure, or premises to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

c.) Notice of Violation and Order to Correct

When the Stormwater Administrator finds that any building, structure, or land is in violation of this ordinance, the Stormwater Administrator shall notify, in writing, the property *owner* or other person violating this ordinance. The notification shall indicate the nature of the violation, contain the address or other description of the site upon which the violation is occurring, order the necessary action to abate the violation, and give a deadline for correcting the violation. If civil penalties are to be assessed, the notice of violation shall also contain a statement of the civil penalties to be assessed, the time of their accrual, and the time within which they must be paid or be subject to collection as a debt.

The Stormwater Administrator may deliver the notice of violation and correction order personally, by the City Police Department, City Planning Department, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, or by any means authorized for the service of documents by Rule 4 of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure.

If a violation is not corrected within a reasonable period of time, as provided in the notification, the Stormwater Administrator may take appropriate action under this ordinance to correct and abate the violation and to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

d.) Extension of Time

A person who receives a notice of violation and correction order, or the *owner* of the land on which the violation occurs, may submit to the Stormwater Administrator a written request for an extension of time for correction of the violation. On determining that the request includes enough information to show that the violation cannot be corrected within the specified time limit for reasons beyond the control of the person requesting the extension, the Stormwater Administrator may extend the time limit as is reasonably necessary to allow timely correction of the violation, up to, but not exceeding 30 days. The Stormwater Administrator may grant 15 -day extensions in addition to the foregoing extension if the violation cannot be corrected within the permitted time due to circumstances beyond the control of the person violating this ordinance. The Stormwater Administrator may grant an extension only by written notice of extension. The notice of extension shall state the date prior to which correction must be made, after which the violator will be subject to the penalties described in the notice of violation and correction order.

e.) Enforcement After Time to Correct

After the time has expired to correct a violation, including any extension(s) if authorized by the Stormwater Administrator, the Stormwater Administrator shall

determine if the violation is corrected. If the violation is not corrected, the Stormwater Administrator may act to impose one or more of the remedies and penalties authorized by this ordinance.

f.) Emergency Enforcement

If delay in correcting a violation would seriously threaten the effective enforcement of this ordinance or pose an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, then the Stormwater Administrator may order the immediate cessation of a violation. Any person so ordered shall cease any violation immediately. The Stormwater Administrator may seek immediate enforcement, without prior written notice, through any remedy or penalty authorized by this article.