

WATERSHED ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN GUIDANCE: Phase III Watershed Protection Plans



Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Protection Branch

The Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) will be based on the information obtained in the Watershed Assessment. The Plan will describe watershed protection strategies that will be used to protect water quality. The Watershed Protection Plan must contain the steps necessary to improve and meet water quality standards. The Plan must include specific actions and detailed schedules for implementation, and must be submitted to EPD by the City or County.

Each year, the City or County must submit certification of WPP implementation. In addition, the long-term monitoring data must be available for review. Every year, the City or County must submit a Progress Report that outlines the specific actions that have been implemented, presents the long-term trend monitoring data, and includes any changes and/or revisions to the Watershed Protection Plan, if necessary. The data must be submitted electronically.

Any planned or ongoing protection efforts should be noted and coordination of these efforts is strongly encouraged. For example, local governments may also be implementing stormwater management programs to comply with their NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) discharge permits.

The Watershed Protection Plan will apply to all areas contained within the City or County's political boundaries and to any other areas to which the City or County provides sewer service. As part of this document, the City or County should identify and adopt specific best management practices (BMPs) to ensure that Georgia water quality standards are met. BMPs include both structural controls (i.e., stream bank restoration, stormwater detention/retention pond retrofits) and non-structural controls (i.e., Adopt-a-stream, public awareness brochures). These BMPs should be enforceable through ordinances or some other similar method (i.e., new development plans, storm water management plans, green space programs, etc.).

I. Legal Authority

A. Political jurisdiction - Information may be provided in table format

- i. Identify the responsible parties, which may include local governments, groups of governments, and/or pertinent authorities and organizations within the watershed, such as a watershed protection group. Include the following information for all responsible parties:
 - a. Name
 - b. Address
 - c. Telephone number
 - d. Fax number
 - e. E-mail address
- ii. Identify local agencies that have authority over zoning and development activities in the delineated watershed areas
- iii. Identify resources available to implement the Plan

B. Code and regulation evaluation

- i. Determine if there is adequate authority to develop and implement the Plan. Review the following:
 - a. Ordinances
 - b. Land use plans
 - c. New development plans
 - d. Storm water management plans - This includes the Storm Water Management Plans (SWMP) required by the NPDES MS4 permit,

which are specifically defined by both the Phase I and Phase II Federal Regulations, as well as any other plans developed for the area.

- e. Water and sewer upgrades – I&I
- f. Parks and recreation
- g. Green Space Program

II. Funding

- A. Provide an estimate of the cost to implement the Plan
- B. Provide potential sources of funding, which could include:
 - i. User fees and/or stormwater surcharges
 - ii. Section 319 programs
 - iii. State Revolving Funds
 - iv. USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Program
 - v. Other relevant Federal, State, local and private funds

III. Identification of pollutant sources requiring control and management

- A. Utilize information generated in the Watershed Assessment to establish baseline watershed conditions
- B. Quantify their present extent (i.e., number of feedlots needing upgrade, linear feet of fence needed to keep livestock out of the stream, acres of row crops needing improved sediment control, linear feet of eroded streambank needing remediation, etc.)
- C. Estimate the load reductions expected for the various management measures

IV. Best Management Practices (BMPs) that have been put into place or will be put into place to help achieve and maintain water quality standards, and prevent future water quality standards violations

- A. Structural BMPs – including, but not limited to:
 - i. Re-vegetate areas
 - ii. Restoration of riparian areas and stream banks
 - iii. Retrofit stormwater detention/retention ponds
 - iv. Control storm flow and velocity
 - v. Septic tank maintenance and repair
- B. Non-structural BMPs – including, but not limited to:
 - i. Public Awareness – a component that will be used to enhance public understanding and participation in implementing the plan
 - a. Stakeholder Meetings
 - b. Workshops
 - c. Continuous Education
 - d. Brochures
 - ii. Outreach Programs
 - a. Adopt-a-stream
 - b. Project WET
 - iii. Stream Walks
 - iv. Septic Tank Surveys maintained by County Health Department
 - v. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE) Program
 - vi. Operation and Maintenance Program for the MS4
 - vii. Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) inspections

- V. Management Measures Specific for 303(d) Listed Stream Segment(s) where a TMDL Implementation Plan has not been developed. Information may be provided in table format.

For each listed segment provide the following information:

- A. List potential monitoring/management measures that can be used for the particular parameter(s) which resulted in the 303(d) listing
- B. Identify who will be responsible for implementing the monitoring/management measure(s)
- C. Identify the potential funding source(s)
- D. Provide current status and/or date the measure(s) will be initiated
- E. Describe the expected effectiveness of the measure(s)
- F. For educational and outreach activities, list the intended audience

- VI. Schedule for implementing the management measures

- A. Describe the interim, measurable milestones for determining whether the management measures or other control actions are being implemented

- VII. Long Term Monitoring Plan

- A. Purpose and Objectives

- i. Utilize information generated in the watershed assessment that establishes baseline watershed conditions
- ii. Document stream improvement
- iii. Identify water quality impairments and streams requiring further action
- iv. Provide information on the effectiveness of BMPs toward meeting water quality standards, including any required modifications

- B. Identify the following:

- i. Parties responsible for conducting monitoring
- ii. Sampling locations
- iii. Monitoring schedule
- iv. Monitoring procedures
- v. Water quality parameters to be monitored
- vi. Biological monitoring should be conducted biennially (every two years). Biological monitoring results should be compared to reference stream data provided by EPD.
- vii. Chemical sampling should be conducted annually (at a minimum, 4 events)
- viii. Monitoring data should be provided in an electronic format, such as Excel

- VIII. Reporting Requirements

Once the Watershed Protection Plan is approved, each June 30th the following should be submitted to EPD

- A. Annual certification of WPP implementation
- B. Electronic submittal of the long-term trend monitoring data
- C. Progress Report which includes
 - i. Specific actions or BMPs that have been implemented
 - ii. Documentation of water quality improvements
 - iii. Summary of any changes and/or revisions to the Watershed Protection Plan, if necessary