



Stormwater Management

The City of St. George receives over 60 inches of rain per year on average. This rain - aka "stormwater" - flows across the land and into man-made and natural stormwater conveyance systems. St. George recognizes the importance of managing stormwater, both its quantity and quality, through public works projects and private development regulations.

Why does the City regulate stormwater management on private property?

Stormwater flows without regard to property boundaries. Changes made to one property can impact how stormwater flows on another. The City is charged with promoting public health, safety, and general welfare, and must comply with Federal and State regulations for stormwater. For these reasons, the City enforces stormwater management regulations.

So, what's regulated?

St. George has stormwater "performance standards" for two phases:

- **Construction** while a development is being constructed, including all types and sizes of development, from a shed in a backyard to a new shopping center. Performance standards are for stormwater quality related to erosion and sedimentation.
- **Post-Construction** after a development has completed construction and for as long as the development exists. Performance standards are for stormwater quantity and quality.

For the specific performance standards, see the City's Unified Development Code, Chapter 15.



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What's required during construction?

During construction of any structure, a plan must be in place to prevent stormwater from carrying sediment off the site and prevent pollution from entering any drainageway.

Before construction begins, the applicant must prepare this plan and the City must approve it. This plan is known as a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and is required for most developments.

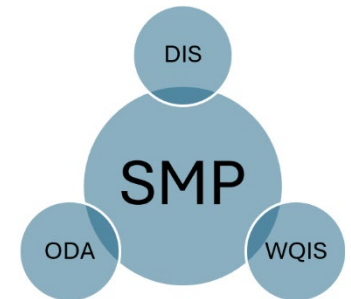
What's required post-construction?

After construction is complete, all development must provide adequate capacity for stormwater and address water quality, and it must be maintained for as long as the development exists.

Planning for how this will be accomplished is part of project development and approval. This involves the creation of a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) for the project.

A SMP is required for all development, with two specific exemptions. Many developments will also be required to prepare one or more of the following detailed plans as part of the SMP:

- Drainage Impact Study (DIS)
- Offsite Drainage Assessment (ODA)
- Water Quality Impact Study (WQIS)



Before construction begins, the applicant must prepare the appropriate plans and the City must approve them. The applicant should coordinate with the City Engineer to understand what plans and studies apply to the development, and what must be included in each.

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What is an ODA?

An Offsite Drainage Assessment (ODA) uses a computer model to determine if proposed changes to property would increase the existing peak water surface elevation in the watershed. The performance standard that the ODA is testing requires development to cause no increase in this elevation.

The City requires an ODA for any development located in a conveyance zone. Currently, the City performs all ODAs through a contractor.

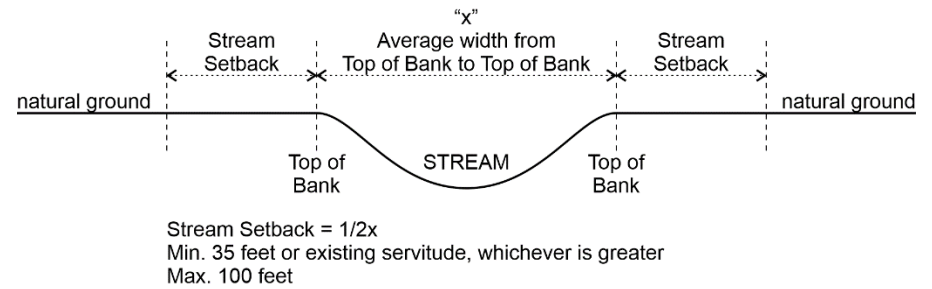
What are conveyance zones?

A conveyance zone is an area that is critical to the conveyance and storage of flood discharges. Using computer models, the City identified these as areas that, during a 100-year rain event, would have a flood depth of at least 0.5 foot, or would have a flood depth of at least 0.25-foot traveling at least 0.5-foot-per-second.

A map of St. George's conveyance zones is on the city's website at StGeorgeLA.gov.

Stream setbacks?

St. George requires a setback from streams for all new development, with specific exemptions; width is shown in the diagram below. Only certain improvements that have no adverse impact on the stream corridor are allowed in the setback.



A map of the streams to which this setback apply is on the city's website at StGeorgeLA.gov.

We can all help keep the stormwater flowing...

No dumping in waterways!

Any material in a drainageway can impede or obstruct the flow of water, which can cause flooding. This includes blowing leaves into a gutter where they will be flow with stormwater into a drainage pipe.

NOTE: The information in this brochure is provided as a convenience. Consult the City of St. George Unified Development Code.



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