

USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[Infiltration Best Management Practices Guidance for Stormwater Management](#)

This paper will give an overview of the best management practices for infiltration of stormwater on-site chosen to meet a new set of stormwater management requirements in the Etowah River watershed of North Georgia. The paper will describe the infiltration BMPs that were recommended. It will give an overview of the specifications created for the infiltration BMPs on design, installation, and maintenance. The Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan (Etowah HCP) was developed to prevent further degradation of aquatic habitat for several endangered species of darter fish native to the Etowah River. The Etowah HCP has several requirements for local jurisdictions to adopt that will prevent water quality impairment in the Etowah River and its tributaries. One of the unique requirements established for stormwater management is the runoff limit criteria. The runoff limit criteria requires retaining and infiltrating stormwater on-site. This is a requirement that is more stringent than that required in other parts of Georgia. The runoff limit criteria were designed to create post construction stormwater responses that would mimic pre-development and pre-agriculture hydrology conditions. To achieve the stormwater retention required, stormwater structures and practices that allow stormwater to be infiltrated on-site must be used. Infiltration best management practices (BMPs) are not the conventional methods used for stormwater control, particularly in the piedmont region of North Georgia. To assist local officials and developers in meeting the runoff limit criteria, guidelines and specifications for infiltration BMPs were developed and included in a Manual on how to meet the runoff limit criteria for managing stormwater on-site. This manual and trainings on design, installation and maintenance of the infiltration BMP will provide options for developers and guidance for local officials to meet the runoff limit criteria.

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