



WATER RESOURCE CENTER

FACT SHEET

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

WATER RESOURCE CENTER

Mission

To promote regional collaboration on water topics; be a leader in facilitating coordination and education; and provide technical assistance to its member governments.

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PROTECT SPECIAL VALUE FEATURES NON-STRUCTURAL STORMWATER BMPS

Protect Sensitive and Special Value Features (PSSVF) is a non-structural best management practice (BMP) that protects areas with stormwater impact sensitivities as well as areas that hold important stormwater functional values. Areas with stormwater impact sensitivities include but are not limited to: steep slopes, historical and natural resources, and adjoining properties. Areas with special stormwater functional values include but are not limited to: floodplains, riparian areas, wetlands, woodlands, and natural flow pathways. Stormwater management functions of PSSVF include runoff volume reduction, groundwater recharge, peak runoff rate control, and protection and improvement of water quality.

Benefits beyond stormwater management can include protection of open space and wildlife habitat, as well as the potential to increase property values and improve aesthetics.

BMP Profile	
Name	Protect Sensitive and Special Value Features
Type	Non-Structural
Grouping	Protect Sensitive and Special Value Resources
Stormwater Management Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Peak Rate Control ◆ Volume Reduction ◆ Water Quality ◆ Groundwater Recharge
Potential Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Residential ◆ Commercial ◆ Industrial ◆ Retrofit ◆ Highway/Road ◆ Ultra Urban



Protecting areas with special stormwater functional values, such as wetlands (above left), woodlands (above right), and riparian areas is a highly effective tool for stormwater management.

Key Considerations of Protecting Sensitive and Special Value Features

- ◆ Disturbing areas with important stormwater functional values, such as floodplains, may double or triple the amount of site runoff
- ◆ Sensitive and special value features should be identified and mapped to guide the site design process
- ◆ Clustering (building on the smallest area possible) is an effective way to achieve the stormwater benefits associated with PSSVF, as well as reduce construction costs associated with land clearing, grading, sidewalks, utility infrastructure, etc.



This information was adapted from the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Practices Manual. Check out SPC's other fact sheets to learn more about specific BMPs, flooding, and more.

Photos: egtischler.files.wordpress.com & sourcewaterpa.org