

Storm Water Management

Water quality and the intensity, timing and velocity of runoff events are closely related to storm water management. Vegetated surfaces slow or capture runoff but when these areas are replaced by impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, parking lots and streets, runoff is substantially increased.

Storm water management, especially on an area wide basis, has generally not been considered in the rural development review process. Individual subdivisions have been approved without a watershed drainage plan, and the cumulative impact of these decisions has affected natural features and manmade improvements such as bridges and roads in their capacity to handle surface runoff. The county's subdivision regulations should ensure that storm water management is an integral part of the development review process.

Development should not be allowed prior to completion of a comprehensive drainage basin study which defines natural drainage corridors and identifies the number and location of detention facilities needed to accommodate additional runoff from impervious surfaces. Developers should be encouraged to use natural areas for aesthetic, open space, natural habitat, and recreational purposes.