

Phenix City Annual Stormwater Report and Post-Construction Stormwater Management

Over the past several decades, the EPA and state agencies have implemented two phases of a program aimed at detecting and eliminating pollutants, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), from our waterways. Specifically in Alabama, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) requires all large, medium and small municipalities, counties, universities, and other entities based on population density data to obtain and maintain a permit for their separate storm sewer system. This permit is commonly referred to as the “MS4 permit,” which stands for “municipal separate storm sewer system permit.” The city of Phenix City maintains an MS4 permit through ADEM and has been given the permit number ALR040019. Annually, Phenix City must report to ADEM major accomplishments, strengths, and weaknesses of all aspects of the City’s Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) required by the MS4 permit. For the 2022-2023 reporting year, the City trained many employees in reference to the SWMP, inspected construction sites, sampled outfalls, and inspected post-construction Best Management Practices (BMPs). This

Common Post-construction BMPs

- Dry detention pond
- Wet retention pond
- Underground detention system
- Green parking lot
- Permeable pavement
- Infiltration basin/trench
- Rain garden/Bioretenion

article is meant to give more information as to what a post-construction BMP is and why the inspection of these BMPs matter.

The most common post-construction BMP in Phenix City is the dry detention pond. Of the 137 BMPs currently in use, there are 131 detention ponds. Of the other 6 BMPs, 2 are underground detention systems and 4 are stormwater/green areas that act as a natural detention system. Not all post-construction BMPs are structural! These can also be procedural

controls like street sweeping or monthly inspections to prevent non-stormwater discharges from a site or ensure proper function of these structural BMPs.

These BMPs are necessary as part of the aforementioned NPDES program to provide a holding area for stormwater. See the photo to the right for a well-maintained detention pond in a residential subdivision in Phenix City. Notice how the grass is well-maintained, there are fences to prevent unauthorized access, the outlet control structure appears to be in good condition, and there is no erosion or non-stormwater around the rocks of the inlet. The Engineering Department is tasked through the City’s MS4 permit to ensure that these post-construction BMPs are well-maintained so as not to allow non-stormwater discharges or flooding.

How can you help? If you live in a subdivision or work somewhere in Phenix City that has a post-construction BMP, make sure that it is maintained properly! If you see any non-stormwater discharges, an unkempt post-construction BMP, or want to know more about the City’s MS4 permit, call the Engineering Department at 334-448-2760 or go to the [Stormwater Management](#) page on the City website.

