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## **Stormwater Mitigation**

In compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit # TNS07621, the University of Tennessee Knoxville has developed an offsite mitigation program and payment in lieu of Stormwater fund that has the ability to offset all or a portion of the required Stormwater Management Volume that cannot be managed on site. Projects that disturb greater than or equal to 1 acre will be eligible to participate in this program. The purpose of this program is to allow options for Capital projects that are unable to meet their requirements within the project limits of construction.

### **Section A-Capital Projects**

**Capital Project Requirements** –The project must satisfy the following requirements before it is able to take advantage of the Stormwater Mitigation Program.

- a. UT Stormwater will consider alternatives for sites that have proven to be technically infeasible to achieve the stay-on volume performance standard.
- b. Economic hardship imposed solely by the design is not presumed to be a basis for site infeasibility.
- c. All projects seeking to participate in the Stormwater Mitigation Program must first be approved by the UT Stormwater Executive Committee.
- d. Water quality criteria of the stormwater discharge must be addressed by the primary project regardless of participation in the Stormwater Mitigation Program. 80% of suspended solids must be removed prior to discharge of any stormwater.
- e. If participating in the Stormwater Mitigation Program the project will be unable to take advantage of any of the stormwater reduction incentives outlined in the UT Runoff Reduction Policy.
- f. Projects must satisfy all requirements of the UT NPDES permit.
- g. If a capital project exceeds the onsite requirements, then the surplus volume will be added to the banked volume for use by another project.

### **Section B- Mitigation Projects**

**Mitigation Project Requirements** –Off-site mitigation may be performed or installed on campus to offset a capital project's inability to address the onsite Stormwater management volume. Approved applicants may elect to participate in offsite mitigation that satisfies the following criteria.

- h. Offsite mitigation may be performed or installed on redevelopment and/or retrofit sites.
- i. These sites will potentially have their own Stormwater management volume requirements in addition to accommodating any offsite mitigation volumes. Each project must satisfy its own requirements prior to offsetting the requirements of other capital projects.
- j. Required management volumes will be calculated based on the projects' cumulative square footage of impervious surface.

- k. To incentivize a project to manage its Stormwater on the project site, the volume generated by a 1 inch rain event at the primary project will be multiplied by 1.5 for sizing the required mitigation.
- l. Offsite mitigation is permitted only within the UT campus properties which fall within the same USGS 12 digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) as the primary project.
- m. Offsite mitigation must be completed within three (3) years of project approval.
- n. Sites designated as mitigation sites must be protected from disturbance. If a mitigation project site is disturbed it must be replaced at 2 times the current volume of mitigation.
- o. If a mitigation project has additional gallons not allocated to a current capital project then the remaining volume may be sold to an existing project at market rate.

### **Section C-Stormwater Mitigation Fund**

**In-Lieu-of Fees-**A capital project may pay into the Stormwater mitigation fund via in lieu of fees.

- p. The established currency for the Stormwater mitigation fund is gallons.
- q. Gallons will be sold at a rate consistent with the open market that is benchmarked by other Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4's) in Tennessee. The rate will be assessed upon initiation of the project.
- r. Partial participation is an option, however a minimum of 10,000 gallons must be purchased by a capital project in order to participate in the Stormwater Mitigation Program. If a project is only able to manage a portion of the required volume, the remaining volume of Stormwater will be multiplied by 1.5.
- s. The Stormwater monies collected will be used to fund separate projects used for mitigation purposes, and not to satisfy other capital project requirements. The University of Tennessee Knoxville will be responsible for creating projects designated as Stormwater mitigation to use the collected funds.
- t. All credits subject to changes in Federal or State Law and/or regulation or changes to the UT NPDES permit that may increase or decrease restrictions on Stormwater discharges.

### **Section D- Tracking Resources**

**Tracking-**Detailed tracking of credits and monies paid into the Stormwater mitigation fund is essential in maintaining permit compliance.

- u. The Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration will be responsible for tracking dollars moved from capital project funds and placed into the Stormwater Mitigation Program fund.
- v. A GIS based system will keep track of mitigation projects, available gallons remaining (if any), and the project or projects that have used the mitigation sites to offset their onsite requirements.