



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.*

Two Chatham Center  
Suite 500  
112 Washington Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3451  
Voice (412) 391-5590  
Fax (412) 391-9160  
www.spcwater.org

# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are used in stormwater management to prevent and mitigate problems related to stormwater. BMPs include mechanisms that control the volume, rate, and quality of stormwater. BMPs also include practices that prevent the creation of stormwater runoff and stormwater pollution. BMPs used in stormwater management are classified as either non-structural or structural.

### Non-Structural BMPs

Non-structural BMPs include design approaches and practices that are used for their ability to prevent the occurrence of stormwater runoff. A majority of non-structural BMPs must be incorporated during site development.

#### Principle Groups of Non-Structural BMPs

- ◆ Protect Sensitive & Special Value Features
- ◆ Cluster & Concentrate
- ◆ Minimize Disturbance & Maintenance
- ◆ Reduce Impervious Cover
- ◆ Disconnect / Distribute / Decentralize
- ◆ Source Control



Preserving important natural features with special value for managing stormwater, such as floodplains and wetlands, is a key non-structural BMP for use when developing land. Photo: [naturalheritage.state.pa.us](http://naturalheritage.state.pa.us)

### Structural BMPs

Structural BMPs are stormwater management techniques that have to be constructed and are typically used to mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff. Structural BMPs can be implemented during site development and in retrofit situations.

#### Principle Groups of Structural BMPs

- ◆ Volume / Peak Rate Reduction by Infiltration
- ◆ Volume / Peak Rate Reduction
- ◆ Runoff Quality / Peak Rate BMPs
- ◆ Restoration BMPs
- ◆ Other BMPs & Related Structural Measures



Vegetated swales are a structural BMP that manage stormwater volume and rate, while also improving water quality. Photo: [lowimpactdevelopment.org](http://lowimpactdevelopment.org)



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.