

Navigating New Jersey's Stormwater Management Rules

These regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:8) establish a comprehensive framework for managing stormwater runoff in New Jersey, with the primary purposes of reducing flooding, maintaining groundwater recharge, and protecting water bodies.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Protect Water Resources and Public Safety

Core goals: reduce flood damage, minimize pollution, maintain groundwater, and ensure basin safety.



A "Green Infrastructure First" Approach

Rules mandate using green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff close to its source whenever possible.



Regional Plans

Planning Occurs at Two Levels:

Regional plans set broad standards, which are then implemented through mandatory municipal-level plans and ordinances.



Municipal Plans

KEY STANDARDS FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



Reduce Pollutant Loads by 80%

Stormwater measures must be designed to remove at least 80% of total suspended solids (TSS).



Control Peak Runoff Rates

Post-development peak flows must be reduced to 50% (2-yr storm), 75% (10-yr), and 80% (100-yr) of pre-development rates.



Maintain Natural Groundwater Recharge

Projects must demonstrate they maintain 100% of the site's average pre-construction groundwater recharge volume.

