

# Infiltration Stormwater Control Practices – Guidelines



## And Lessons Learned

Roger Bannerman  
WDNR

# Determination of Policy

- **State Laws**

- Describe intent

- **Administrative Rules**

- Establish specific goals: Performance standards

- Local Ordinances

- **Technical Standards**

- How to achieve performance standards

# The Runoff Management Rules (NR 151)

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[HTTP://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater.htm)

Click on Administrative Rules & Technical Standards



# Post Construction Infiltration Performance Standards (by design)

By design, infiltrate sufficient runoff volume so that the post-development average annual infiltration volume shall be a portion of pre-development infiltration volume.

## Residential

90% (1% Cap)

## Non-residential

60% (2% Cap)



# Pre-Development Curve Numbers

- Standard based on pre-development condition
- CN shall assume “good hydrologic condition” as identified in TR-55 or equivalent methodology
- Maximum Cropland Curve Numbers are:

Hydrologic Soil Group	A	B	C	D
Runoff Curve Number	56	70	79	83

# Conventional Pipe and Pond Centralized Control

“Efficiency”



West Bend, WI: Infiltration Basin





UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION

**Rock County Office**





Backyard  
Rain Garden  
– 300 sq. ft.  
Madison, WI



Roof Area: 1000  
square feet



Bioretention –  
Middleton, WI





**Adam St. Inlets to Rain  
Gardens – Madison, WI**





A photograph of a bioretention system. The system consists of three distinct cells, labeled Cell A, Cell B, and Cell C, which are separated by low stone walls. Cell A is the largest and is filled with dark soil. Cell B is a smaller, rectangular cell also filled with dark soil. Cell C is a narrow, elongated cell filled with dark soil. The cells are connected by a central channel of light-colored gravel. In the background, a concrete bridge spans over a road. The surrounding area is lush with green grass and trees. The text 'Cell A', 'Cell B', and 'Cell C' is overlaid in red on the image.

**Cell A**

**Cell B**

**Cell C**

**Bioretention –  
Lodi, WI; WDOT  
(John Voorhees)**

# Exclusions

- Based on *groundwater quality protection*
- Two categories of exclusions
  - Based on land uses & source areas:
    - » Industrial sites; fueling & vehicle maintenance
  - Based on site restriction for infiltration devices
    - » Karst topography, nearness to wells, etc.



# Exemptions

- Based on *feasibility*
- Two categories of exemptions
  - Based on land uses & source areas:
    - » Small parking areas & access roads; redevelopment sites; small in-fill sites; roads/arterial roads in specified areas
  - Based on site restriction for infiltration devices
    - » Measured soil infiltration rate less than 0.6"/hr
    - » Infiltration when soil is frozen

# Technical Standards for Infiltration

- Site Evaluation Standard
- Bioretention Standard
- Infiltration Basin Standard
- Grass Swale Standard
- Rain Garden Standard
- [HTTP://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater/techstds.  
htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater/techstds.htm)





## **Contents of Technical Std.:**

- 1. Criteria**
- 2. Considerations**
- 3. Plan or Report**
- 4. Op. and Maintenance**

# Rain Garden Manual on WDNR Web Site

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/rg/index.htm>

# RAIN GARDENS



A how-to manual  
for homeowners



# New Rain Garden – Cross Plains, WI



# Determining Your Soil Type

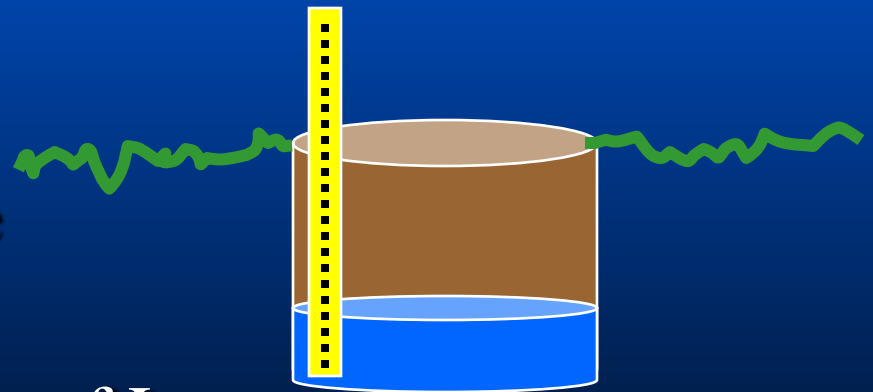
- Some hints:

- 1. Soil feels gritty and coarse = sandy
- 2. Soil feels smooth not sticky = silty
- 3. Soil feels sticky and clumpy = clayey

- Have soil analyzed

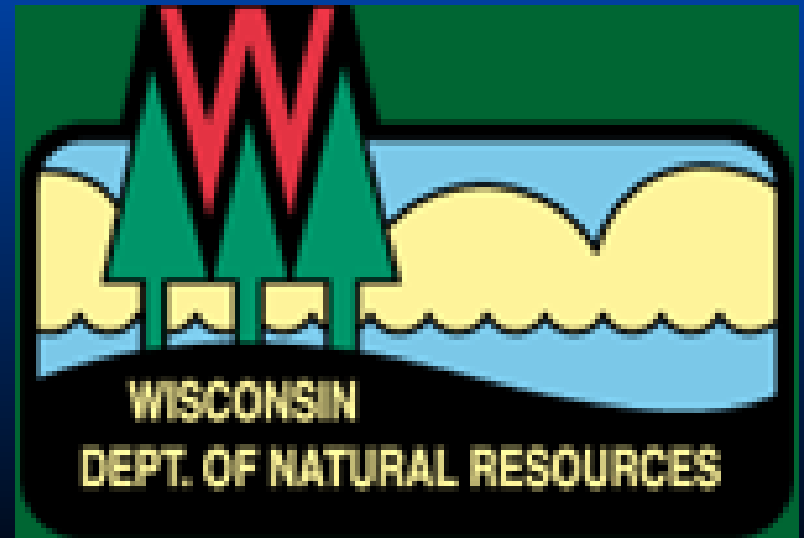
- Use infiltration test

- Make 6” diameter hole
- Fill & Let Stand
- Fill Again & Time Rate of Loss





# Long-Term Water Budget of Two Rain Gardens in Madison, WI





# Breaking Ground





# Adding Compost



6/15/2003



# Two Rain Gardens in Silt/Clay Soil – 4 to 1 Ratio of Roof To Rain Garden Area



Native Species

Turf Grass



Evapotranspiration

Datalogger

Soil Moisture

Volume In

Pond Depth

Volume Out

11/3/2003



# Performance Summary for 2007 Gardens in Clay Soil

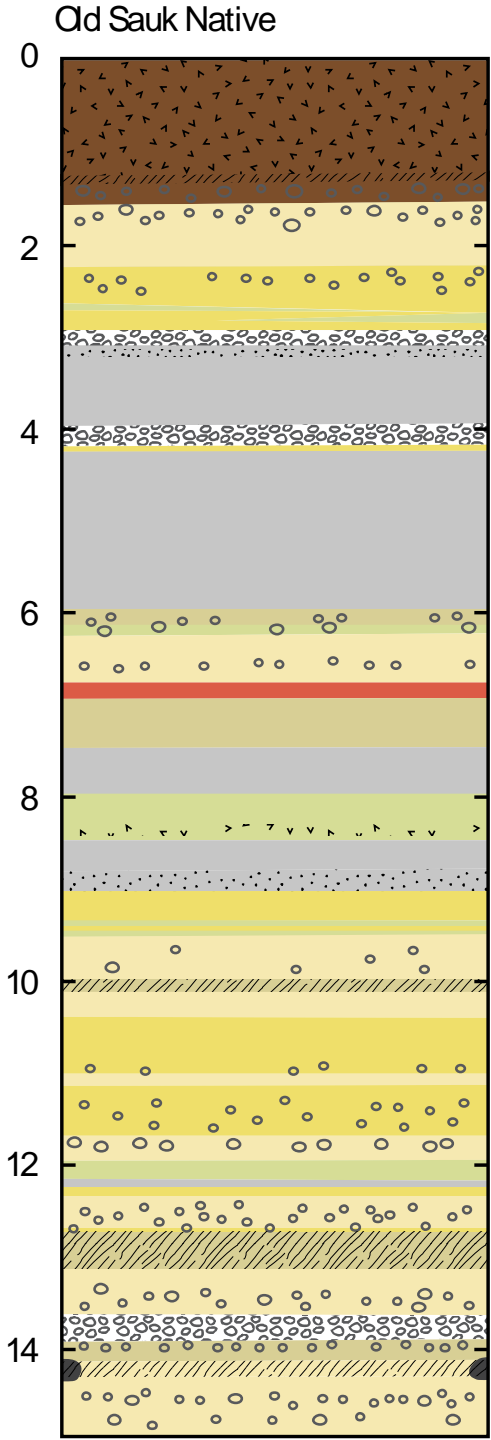
<b>Plant Type</b>	<b>Volume In, Gallons</b>	<b>Volume Out, Gallons</b>	<b># Events with Ponding</b>	<b>Percent Reduction</b>
<b>Turf</b>	46,000	107	19	<b>99%</b>
<b>Native Plants</b>	42,000	0	9	<b>100%</b>



Silt/Clay rain garden soil core reveals sand down to approximately 3 feet then turns to clay



DEPTH BELOW LAND SURFACE (IN FEET)

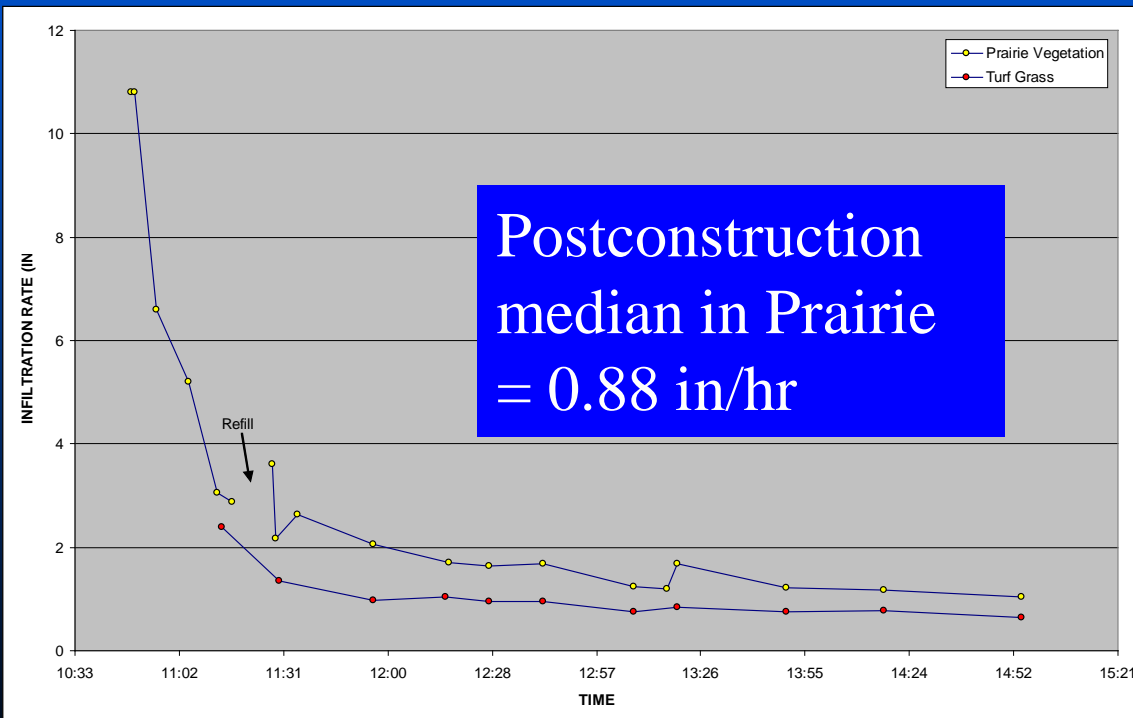
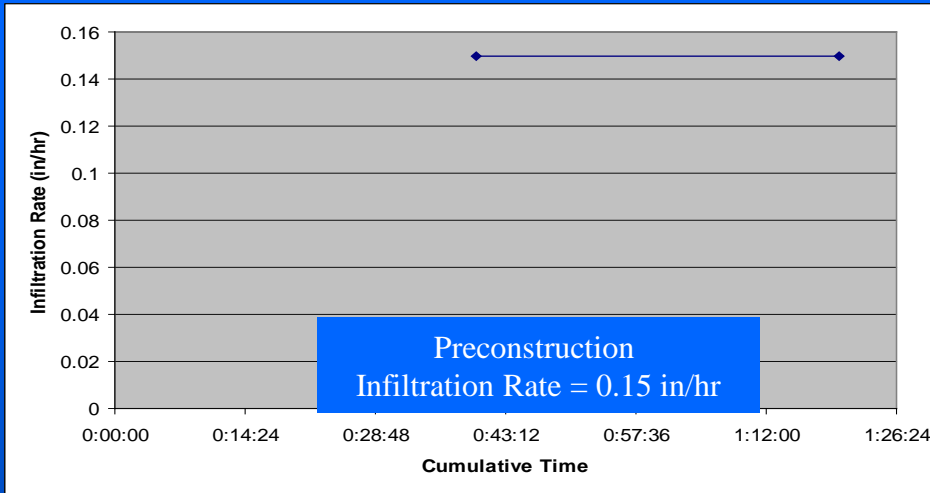


EXPLANATION

- Soil Texture**
- Organic-rich A horizon
  - Sand
  - Sandy loam to loamy sand
  - Sandy clay to sandy clay loam
  - Loam to clay loam
  - Clay
  - Silty clay to silt clay loam
  - No soil present

- Significant Zones**
- Cementation
  - Silty
  - Sandy
  - Organic materials
  - Broken rock
  - Gravelly or pebbly
  - Stone intersected while coring

# Verification of Infiltration Rates







10/15/2008



# Capacity of Prairie Clay Rain Gardens

Storage Volume = 200 cubic feet

Equal Roof Runoff = 1.56 inches (90% of Events)

Void Space Above Clay = 200 cubic feet

Equal Roof Runoff = 1.56 inches

Total Capacity = 3.12 inches of rain

**Winter had lowest  
infiltration rates and  
more pooled water**

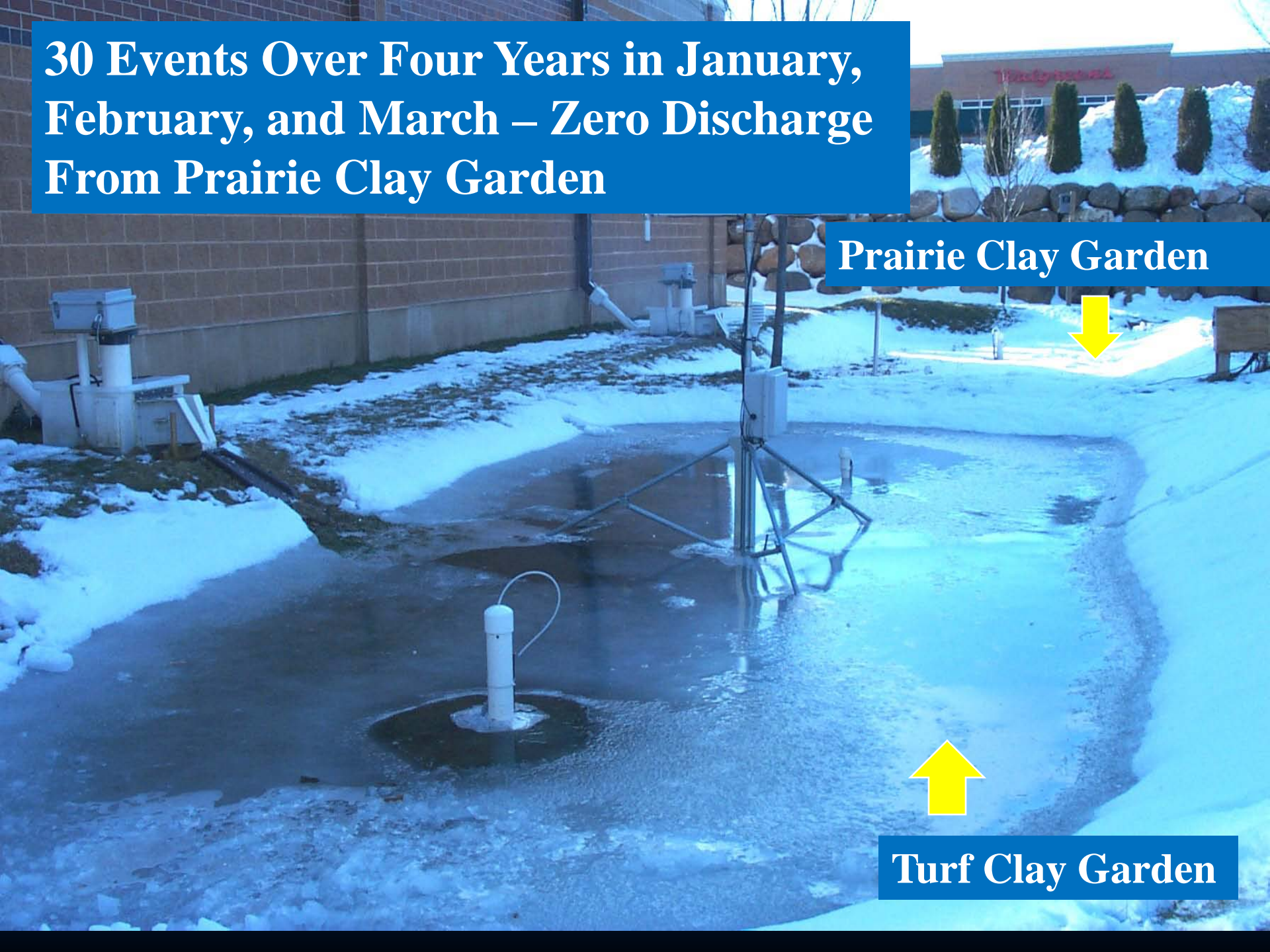


# 30 Events Over Four Years in January, February, and March – Zero Discharge From Prairie Clay Garden

Prairie Clay Garden



Turf Clay Garden





# Bioretention Performance in Cold Climates, Davidson and others, 2008, WERF

**Purpose:  
Conduct  
Simulated  
Snowmelt Events  
to Measure  
Response under  
Winter  
Conditions**



**Crystal Lake Bioretention Cell  
Burnsville, Mn**



**Cottage Grove Bioretention Cell  
Cottage Grove, MN**



**Thompson Lake Bioretention Cell  
West St. Paul, MN**



**Stillwater Bioretention Cell  
Stillwater, Mn**



**“Characteristically, the fastest rates occurred early winter in the testing season and progressively slowed as the tests were completed later in the season toward spring.”**



Cottage Grove Cell



# Evapotranspiration

- Using modified Penman-Monteith equation
- Parameters:
  - Solar radiation
  - Wind speed
  - Precipitation depth
  - Humidity
  - Air Temperature
- Applies correction factor for vegetation type



# Water Balance in Prairie and Turf Clay Rain Gardens

Water Year	Precip. , inches	Influent, inches	Effluent, inches	Evapo, inches	Recharge, inches
2007 (Prairie)	42	132	0	5 (3%)	169 (97%)
2007 (Turf)	42	176	0	23 (11%)	194 (89%)





Edgewood College  
Bioretention Systems,  
Jim Lorman

06/24/2008



# Bioretention Engineered Soil Mix – Technical Standard 1004



- 40% Sand: ASTM C33 (Fine Aggregate Concrete Sand; 97% Silica)
- 20 to 30% Topsoil: USDA sandy loam, loamy sand or loam (Verification by lab test or competent professional)
- 30 to 40% Compost: Specification 100 (Compost)



Technical Standard 1004  
trying to achieve a balance  
between:

- 1.adequate infiltration rate
2. reducing pollutant concentration
3. Support plant growth

# Soil Mixing







**Jeremy Balousek**

**Clay Textured Topsoil Used**











# Soil Texture for Two Bioretention Systems in Madison – Number 1 Had Failed

Site Number	% Organic Matter	% Sand	% Silt	% Clay	Soil Texture
1 (John Q)	3.5	53	33	14	Sandy Loam
2 (Omo)	3.0	59	28	13	Sandy Loam

**Prince George County, Maryland –  
No more than 5% fines.**



50\50% Sand\Compost  
20\80% Sand\Compost

Linda and Mark Piotrowski  
28020 El Dorado Place, Lathrup Village





**Fill Soil Media:**

**85 – 88% Washed Sand**

**8 – 12% Fines (Silt + Clay)**

**3 – 5% Organic Matter**

Engineered Soil Mix – University  
of North Carolina (William Hunt,  
2006)

'98 3 25

# Proposed Bioretention Engineered Soil Mix – Technical Standard 1004

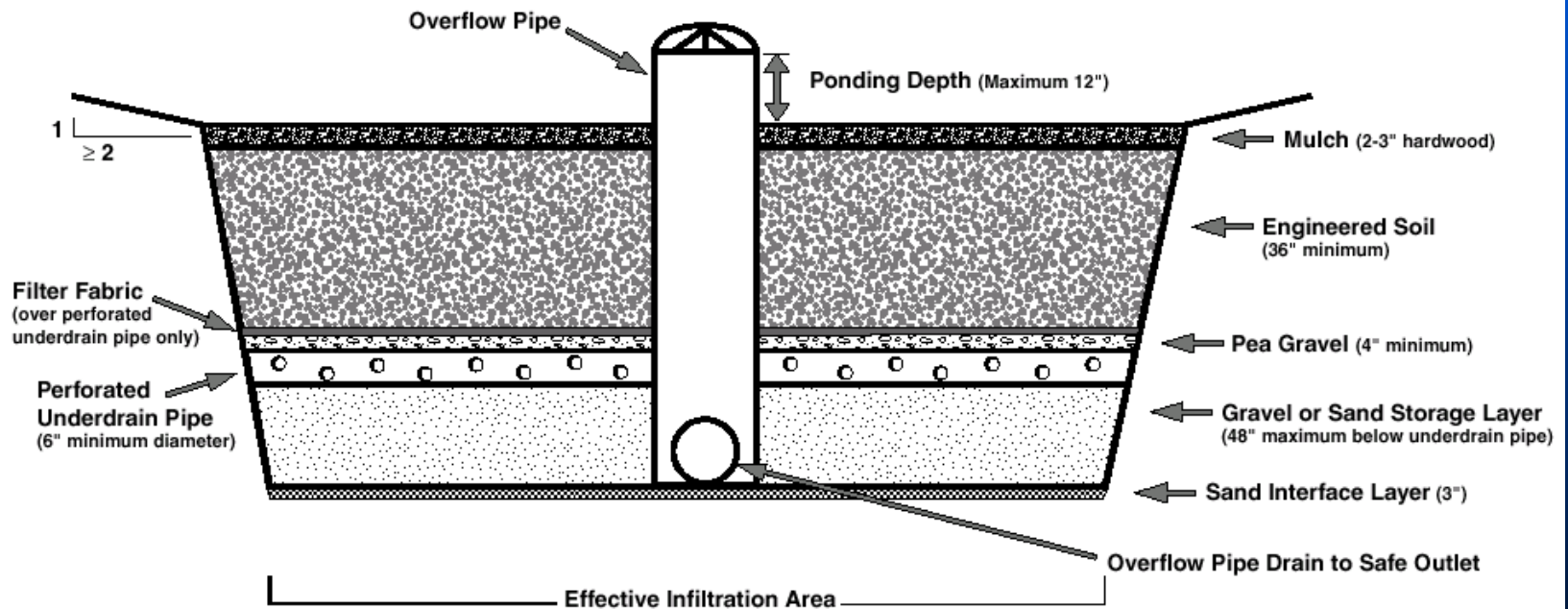


- 50% Sand: ASTM C33 (Fine Aggregate Concrete Sand; 97% Silica)
- 50% Compost: Specification 100 (Compost)
- Use Dolomite or Carbonate Sand, But Not Constructed Sand



# Depth of Engineered Soil (3 Feet = 90% TSS Reducton) – Bioretention Standard 1004

Figure 3. Example of **Bioretention Device** – cross-section across length of device



# Bioretention Efficiency – University of North Carolina, William Hunt, 2006

Location (depth)	TN Removal, %	TP Removal, %	Other, %
Greensboro (4 ft.)	33	240 increase – yr 1 39 increase – yr 2	65 – 99 Cu & Zn
Greensboro (4 ft.)	43	9	56 – 86 Cu & Zn
Chapel Hill (4 ft.)	40	65	
Louisburg (2.5 ft.)	64	66	
Louisburg (2.5 ft.)	68	22	
Charlotte (4 ft.)	65	68	Fecal Col – 90%





Parking Lot



TSS	17 mg/l	47%
TP	0.18 mg/l	76%
Cu	4 ug/l	57%
Zn	53 ug/l	62%

University of Maryland Allen Davies, 2007

# Cumulative Percent Removal by Depth – Allen Davis, University of Maryland (Lab & Field Results)

Depth	Cu	Zn	P	TN
1 ft.	90	87	0	-29
2 ft.	93	98	73	0
3 ft.	93	99	81	43



# Guidelines for Depth of Engineered Soil – William Hunt, 2006

Pollutant	Minimum Engineered Mix Depth
TSS	No Minimum
Metals	18 inches
TN	36 inches
TP	24 inches

TSS	78	75	87%
TP	27	59	61%
Zn	60	82	80%
TN	27	44	32%



**Austin  
Surface  
Sand  
Filter –  
18 to 24  
inches  
Thick**



**University of Maryland  
Allen Davis, 2003**



**Flow Peaks Reduced  
50% & Peak Flows  
Delayed 2 Times or  
More – Small Storms  
No Flow**



**William Hunt, 2006**

**Media Depth for  
Plants:**

**Trees – 3 feet**

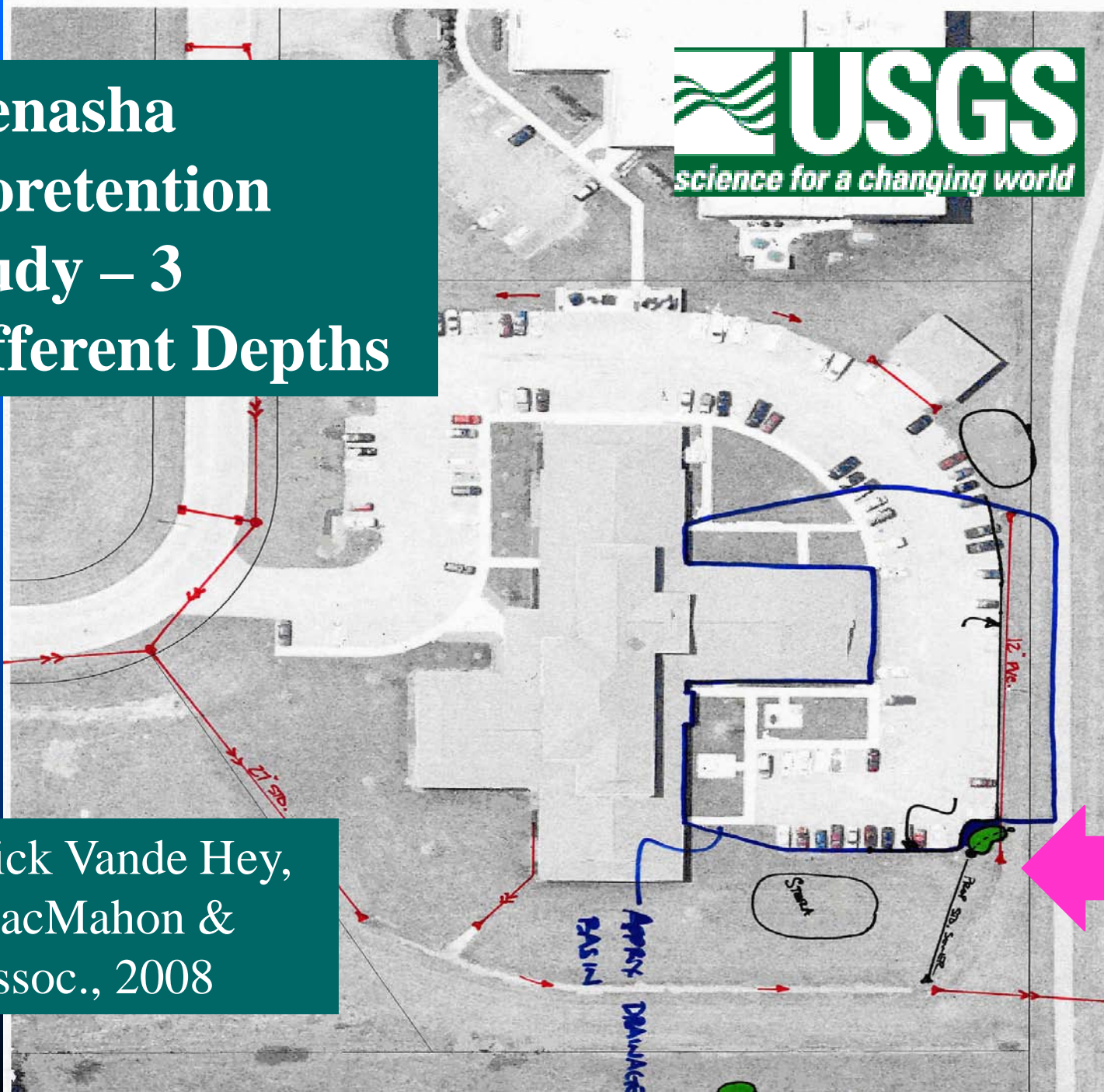
**Shrubs – 2 feet**

**Grass – 18 inches**





# Menasha Bioretention Study – 3 Different Depths



Nick Vande Hey,  
MacMahon &  
Assoc., 2008

# Biofiltration Research Project brought to you by:

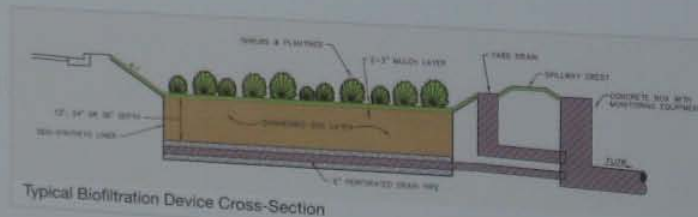


**McMAHON**  
ENGINEERS ARCHITECTS



- Schmalz Custom Landscaping
- Waupaca Sand & Solutions
- White Oak Farm
- Town of Menasha
- Faith Technologies
- Wittman Construction, LLC
- Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance
- Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium
- City of Appleton

The purpose of the Biofiltration Research Project is to determine the appropriate amount of engineered soil which is needed to cost-effectively remove stormwater pollutants.



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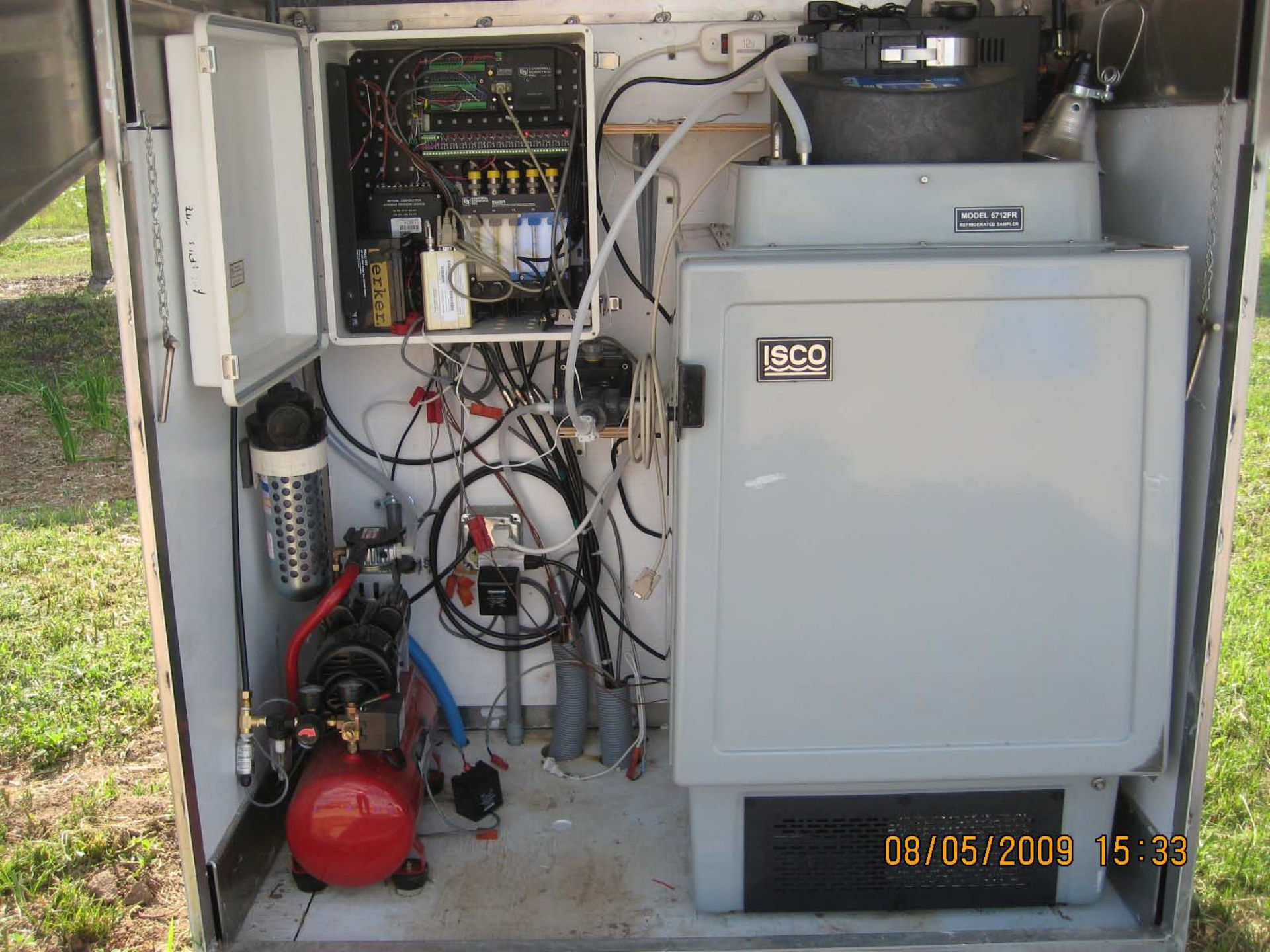






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ISCO

MODEL 6712FR  
REFRIGERATED SAMPLER

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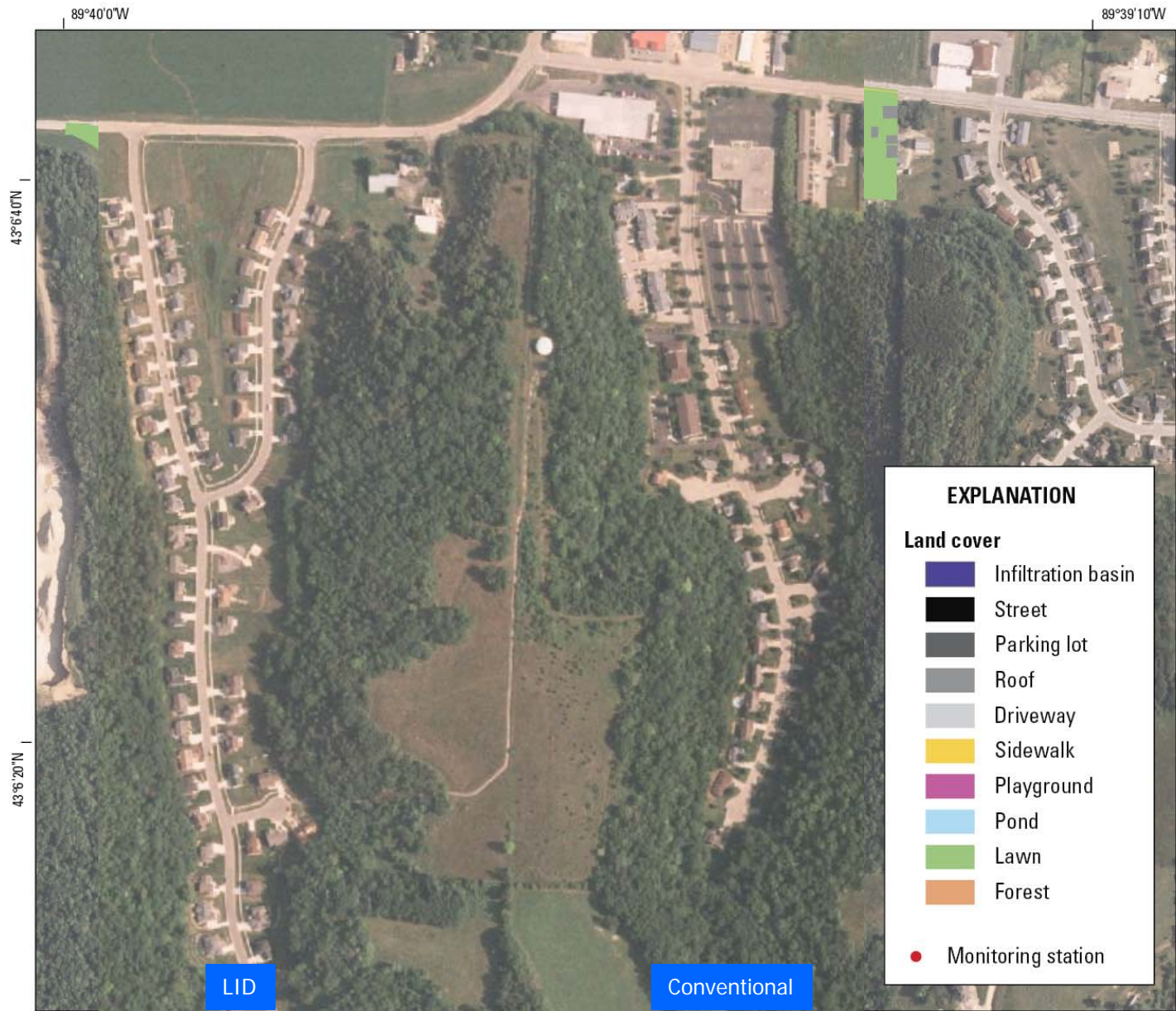
# Infiltration Basin Technical Standard 1003



# Comparison of Stormwater Runoff Quality and Quantity Using Conventional and LID Strategies







Base from Dane County Land Information Office Orthophotography, 1:10,000, 2005. Map Projection: Dane County Coordinate System.





Infiltration Basin



Grass Swales



Drop-inlets



Infiltration trench



Wet Detention Pond



Stone Weepers



# Cedar Hills





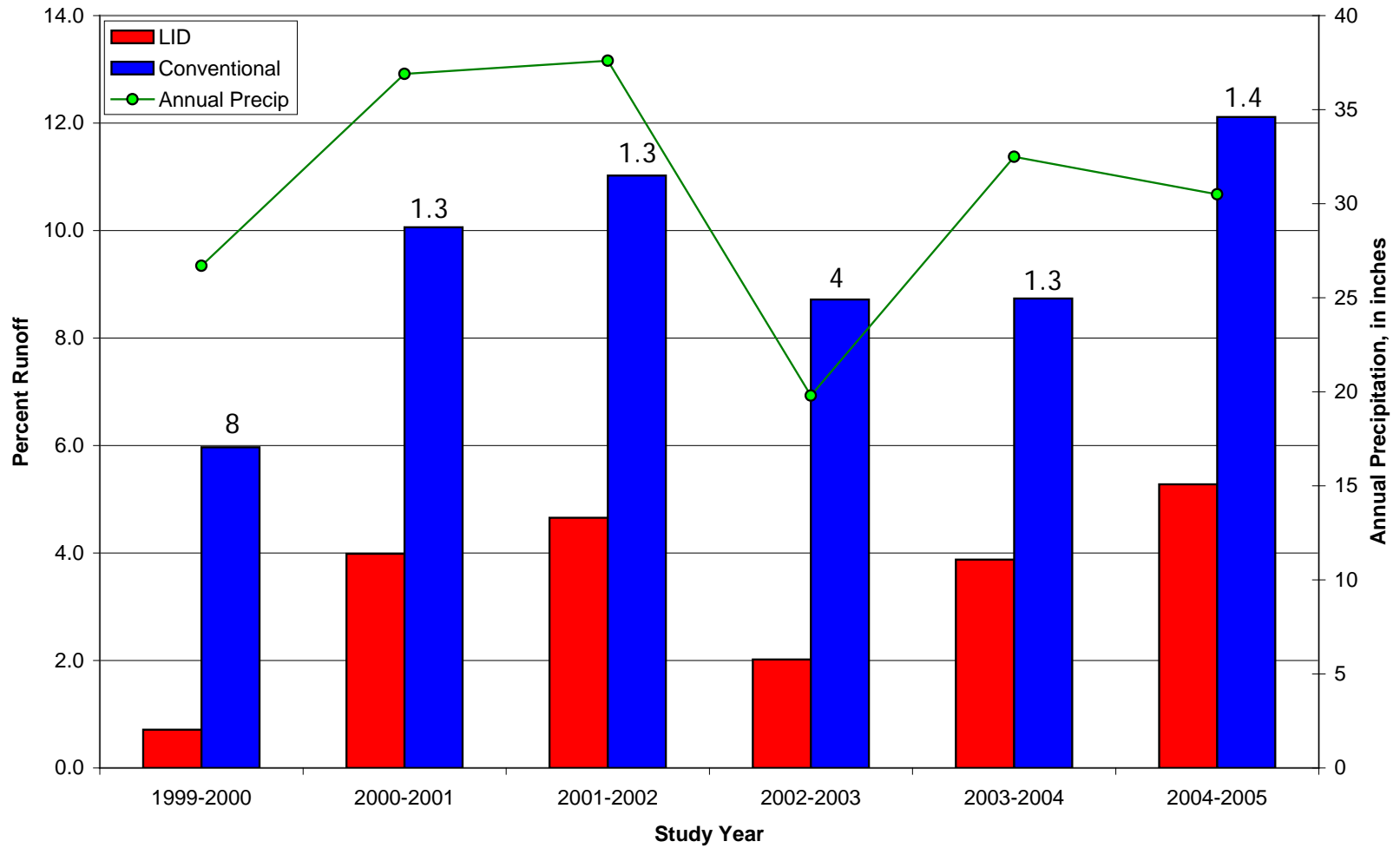
**Infiltration Basin: Cedar Hills**



**2 Outlets for  
Wet Pond**

**Level Spreader –  
Cedar Hills, WI**

## Comparison of Annual Runoff Between the LID and Conventional Basins



Annual cycle = May through April



1999

2000

2001

2002

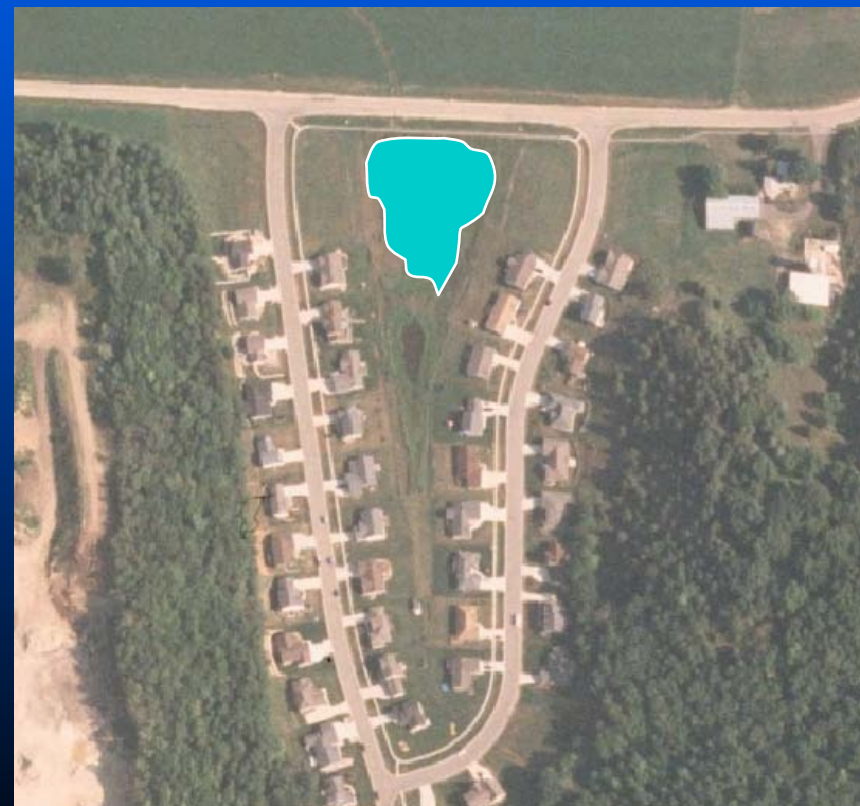
2003

2004



# Infiltration Basin Performance

*Overall Reduction in Runoff Volume for Infil. Basin = 51%*



Statistic	Percent Reduction		
	Precipitation Intensity (inches/hour)		
	0 - 0.5	0.5 - 1.0	> 1.0
Mean	69	43	32
Median	71	44	43

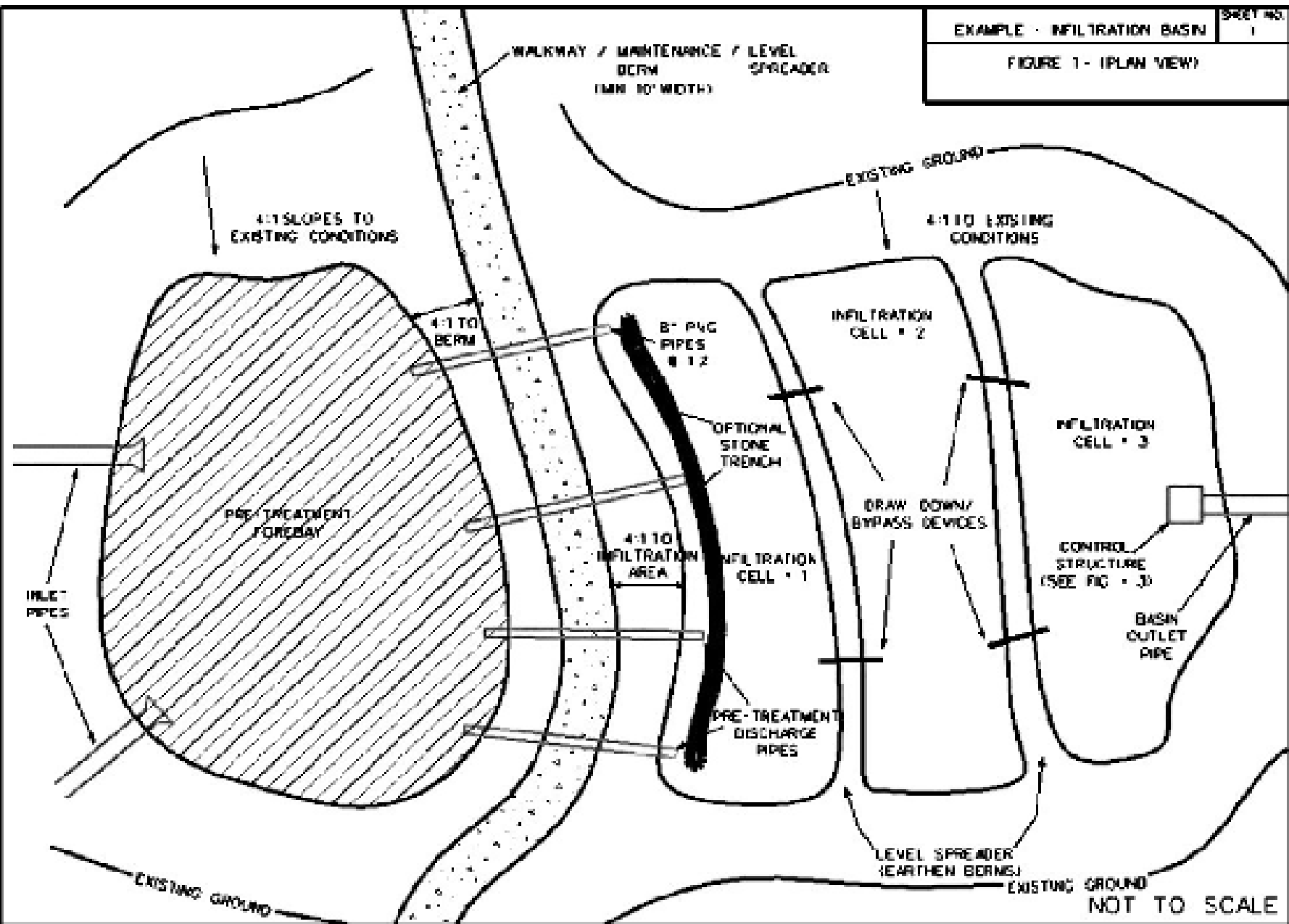
# Diminished Effective Infiltration Area



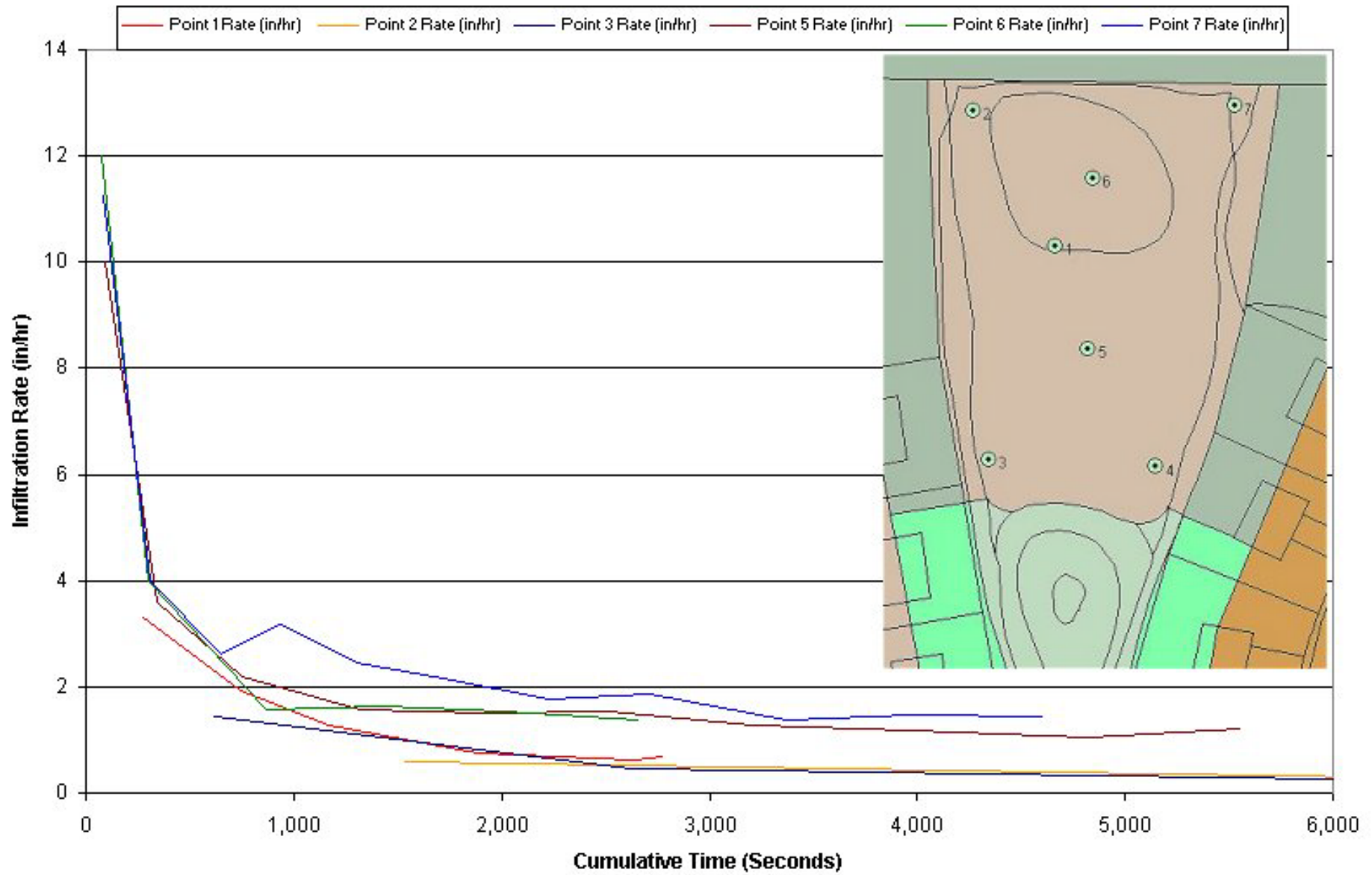
**Infiltration Standard Requires Breaking Effective Infiltration Area into Cells – when slope is indicated or the flow path exceeds 300 feet.**



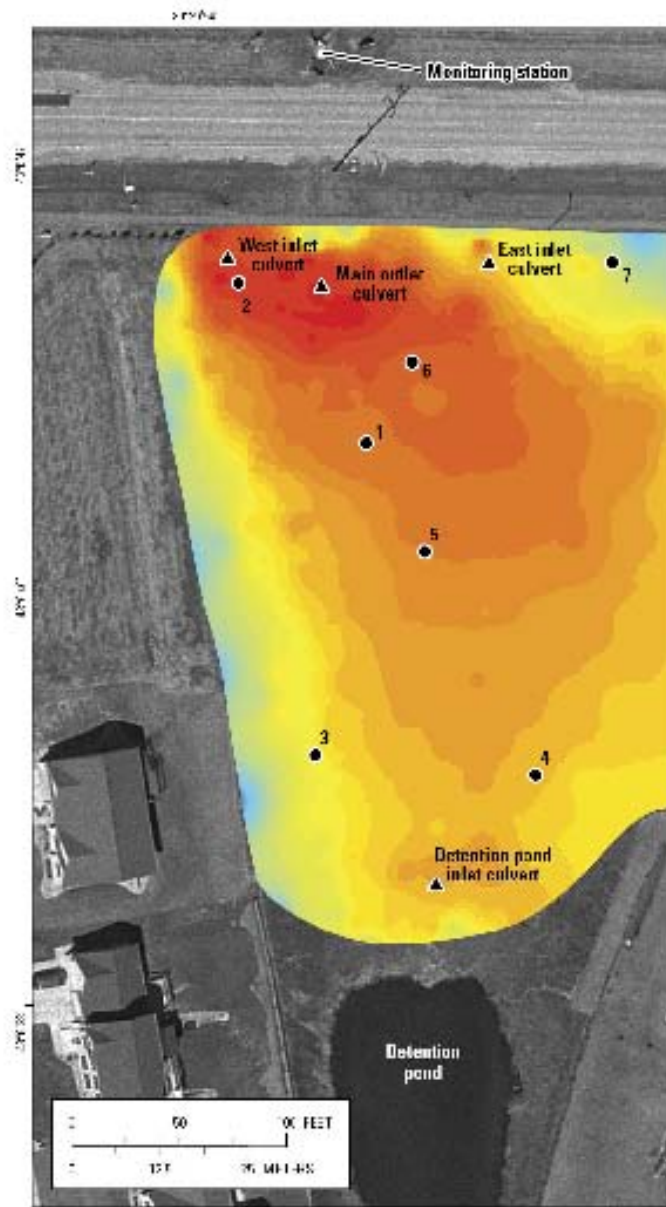
FIGURE 1 - (PLAN VIEW)



# Cedar Hills Double-Ring Infiltration Tests June 2002







Basin 1 and 2  
200 Map Project





# Infiltration Basin with Compacted Soils

**Standard  
requires adding 2  
inches compost  
and chisel  
plowing to 12  
inches**





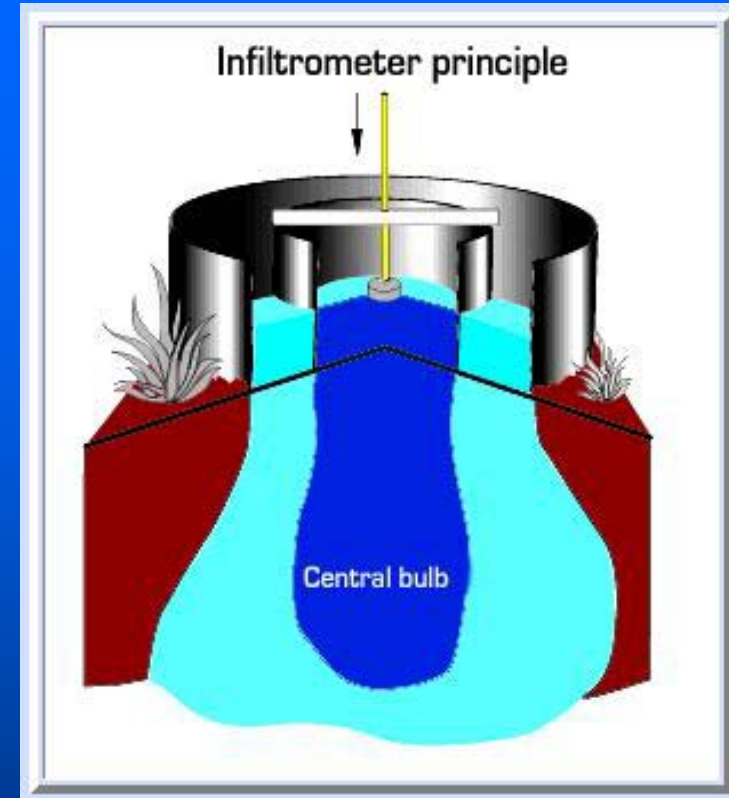
# Grass Swale Standard 1005 - Construction Criteria

Minimize or mitigate the effects of compaction from grading activities with incorporation of compost into subsoil.

Two inches of compost and top soil incorporated using chisel plow reaching 12 inches below surface.



**Double-Ring Infiltrometer –  
ASTM D3385 – Modified for  
Use in Wisconsin ( 2 hour test)**





# Steps for Site Evaluation Standard 1002

- Step A – Initial Screening
- Step B – Field Verification of Information Collected in Step A.
- Step C – Evaluation of Specific Infiltration Area.
- Step D – Soil and Site Evaluation Reporting.

## Number of Pits and Borings – Step C

<i>Infiltration Device</i>	<i>Tests Required</i>	<i>Minimum Number of Pits or Borings</i>	<i>Minimum Drill/Test Depth</i>
Bioretention	Pits or Borings; Mounding	1 test/50 linear feet of device with a Minimum of 2	5 Feet or Depth to Limiting Layer
Infiltration Basin	Pits or Borings; Mounding	2 Pits per Area; With 1 Pit or Boring for Every 10,000 sq. ft.	Pits to 10 Ft. or Borings to 20 Ft.



# Determination of Policy

## ■ State Laws

- Describe intent

## ■ Administrative Rules

- Establish specific goals: Performance standards
- Local Ordinances

## ■ Technical Standards

- How to achieve performance standards

# Technical Standards for Infiltration

- Site Evaluation Standard
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- [HTTP://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater/  
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# Questions?



Jeremy Balousek





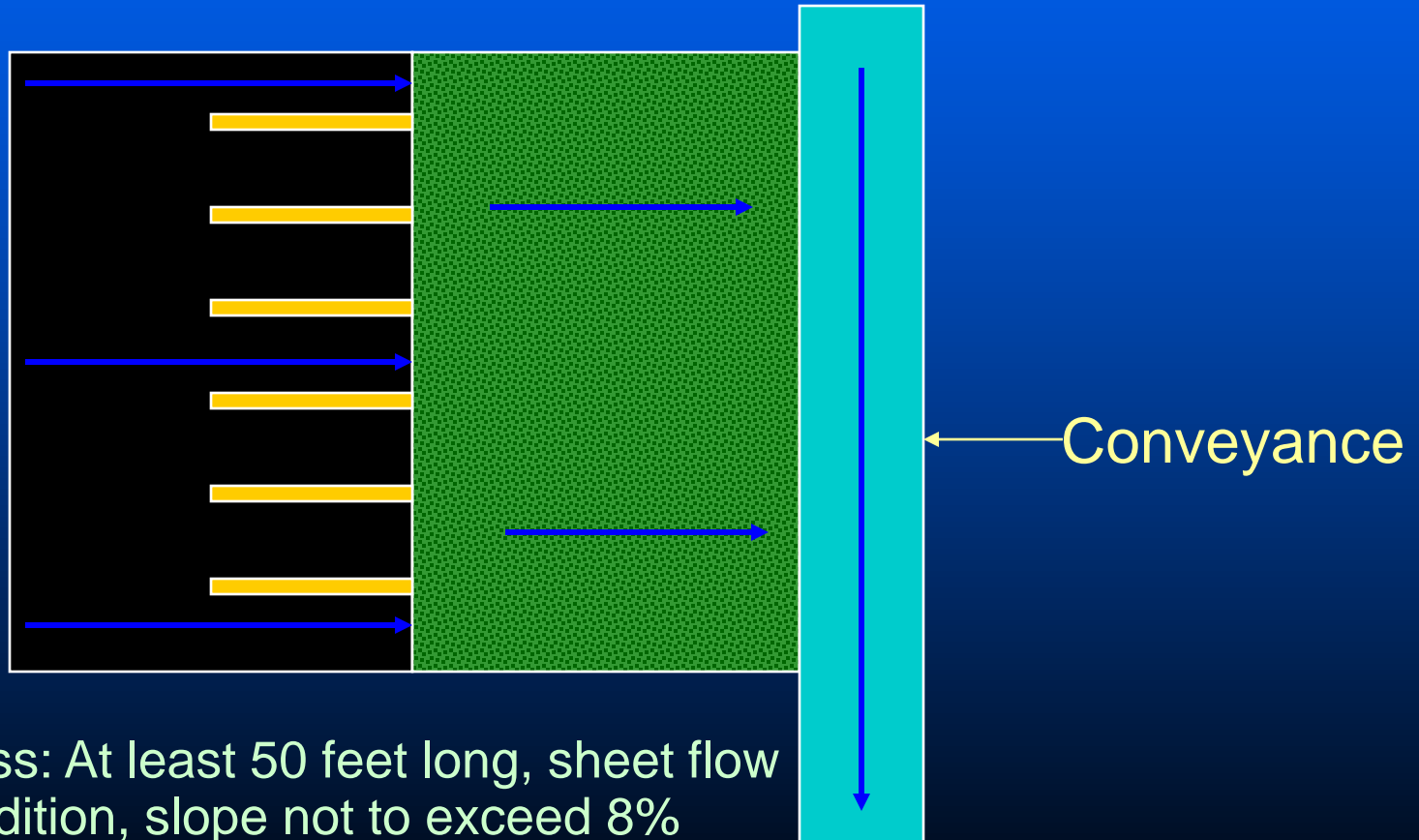
# Residential Rooftop Disconnection



Length: Not less than 20 feet.

# Parking Lot Disconnection

If Parking Lot: 50 feet long (must have sheet flow)



Then grass: At least 50 feet long, sheet flow good condition, slope not to exceed 8%



# Bioretention – Villanova University, Robert Traver, 2002

Storage:  
0.46 in

Void  
Space:  
0.54 in

Drainage  
Area:  
1.2 acres  
– 50%  
imperv.

70%  
control

