

3.3.8 Ongoing inspection and maintenance of stormwater facilities and practices.

- A. *Long-Term Maintenance Inspection of Stormwater Facilities and Practices.* Stormwater management facilities and practices included in a stormwater management plan which are subject to an inspection and maintenance agreement must undergo ongoing inspections to document maintenance and repair needs and ensure compliance with the requirements of the agreement, the plan and this ordinance.

A stormwater management facility or practice shall be inspected on a periodic basis by the responsible person in accordance with the approved inspection and maintenance agreement. In the event that the stormwater management facility has not been maintained and/or becomes a danger to public safety or public health, the City Engineer shall notify the person responsible for carrying out the maintenance plan by registered or certified mail to the person specified in the inspection and maintenance agreement. The notice shall specify the measures needed to comply with the agreement and the plan and shall specify the time within which such measures shall be completed. If the responsible person fails or refuses to meet the requirements of the inspection and maintenance agreement, the ~~Engineering~~Public Works Department may correct the violation as provided in Subsection D hereof.

Inspection programs by the ~~Engineering~~Public Works Department may be established on any reasonable basis, including but not limited to: routine inspections; random inspections; inspections based upon complaints or other notice of possible violations; and joint inspections with other agencies inspecting under environmental or safety laws. Inspections may include, but are not limited to: reviewing maintenance and repair records; sampling discharges, surface water, groundwater, and material or water in stormwater management facilities; and evaluating the condition of stormwater management facilities and practices.

- B. *Right-of-Entry for Inspection.* The terms of the inspection and maintenance agreement shall provide for representatives of the City to enter the property at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner for the purpose of inspection. This includes the right to enter a property when it has a reasonable basis to believe that a violation of this ordinance is occurring or has occurred and to enter when necessary for abatement of a public nuisance or correction of a violation of this ordinance.
- C. *Records of Maintenance Activities.* Parties responsible for the operation and maintenance of a stormwater management facility shall provide records of all maintenance and repairs to the ~~Engineering~~Public Works Department.
- D. *Failure to Maintain.* If a responsible person fails or refuses to meet the requirements of the inspection and maintenance agreement, the ~~Engineering~~Public Works Department, after thirty (30) days written notice (except, that in the event the violation constitutes an immediate danger to public health or public safety, 24 hours' notice shall be sufficient), may correct a violation of the design standards or maintenance requirements by performing the necessary work to place the facility or practice in proper working condition. The City may assess the owner(s) of the facility for the cost of repair work which shall be a lien on the property, and may be placed on the ad valorem tax bill for such property and collected in the ordinary manner for such taxes.
- E. *Maintenance Responsibility.* For all existing and new development the following maintenance responsibilities shall apply:
1. Any stormwater management facility which services individual subdivisions shall be privately owned with routine maintenance provided for by the owner(s). In subdivisions with an established homeowners association, the homeowners association shall be responsible for routine maintenance. The owner shall maintain a perpetual, non-exclusive easement which allows for access for inspection and other maintenance.
 2. Any stormwater management facility which services an individual subdivision in which the facility is within designated open areas or an amenity with an established homeowners association shall be privately owned and maintained. The owner shall maintain a perpetual, non-exclusive easement which allows for access for inspection and emergency maintenance.

3. Any stormwater management facility which services commercial and industrial development shall be privately owned and maintained. The City shall reserve the right, but not the duty to enter the premises for emergency repairs.
4. All other stormwater management facilities, including regional stormwater detention, shall be publicly owned and/or maintained only if accepted for maintenance by the City.
5. The director may require dedication of privately owned stormwater facilities, which discharge to the City's stormwater system, to the City.
6. Drainage easements where a subdivision is traversed by a water course, drainage way, natural stream or channel off the street right-of-way shall be clearly defined on the plat and deed of the individual property owner for the purpose of maintaining the free flow of water. The owner shall be required to keep the easement free of obstructions and will maintain same in such a way as to assure free and maximum flow at all times.

3.3.9 Illegal connection.

A. *Findings.* It is hereby determined that:

Discharges to the City of Alpharetta's separate storm sewer system that are not composed entirely of stormwater runoff contribute to increased nonpoint source pollution and degradation of receiving waters;

These non-stormwater discharges occur due to spills, dumping and improper connections to the City's separate storm sewer system from residential, industrial, commercial or institutional establishments.

These non-stormwater discharges not only impact waterways individually, but geographically dispersed, small volume non-stormwater discharges can have cumulative impacts on receiving waters.

The impacts of these discharges adversely affect public health and safety, drinking water supplies, recreation, fish and other aquatic life, property values and other uses of lands and waters;

These impacts can be minimized through the regulation of spills, dumping and discharges into the City's separate storm sewer system;

Localities in the State of Georgia are required to comply with a number of State and Federal laws, regulations and permits which require a locality to address the impacts of stormwater runoff quality and nonpoint source pollution due to improper non-stormwater discharges to the City's separate storm sewer system;

Therefore, the City of Alpharetta adopts this ordinance to prohibit such non-stormwater discharges to the City's separate storm sewer system. It is determined that the regulation of spills, improper dumping and discharges to the City's separate storm sewer system is in the public interest and will prevent threats to public health and safety, and the environment.

B. *Purpose and Intent.* The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the public health, safety, environment and general welfare through the regulation of non-stormwater discharges to the City's separate storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable as required by Federal law. This ordinance establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the City's separate storm sewer system in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The objectives of this ordinance are to:

1. Regulate the contribution of pollutants to the City's separate storm sewer system by any person;
2. Prohibit illicit discharges and illegal connections to the City's separate storm sewer system;
3. Prevent non-stormwater discharges, generated as a result of spills, inappropriate dumping or disposal, to the City's separate storm sewer system; and,
4. To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance, monitoring and enforcement procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance;
5. No variances shall be granted to illicit discharge or illegal connection.

- C. *Prohibition of Illicit Discharges.* No person shall throw, drain, run, or otherwise discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into any component of the City of Alpharetta separate storm sewer system, or to cause permit or suffer to be thrown, drained, run, or allow to seep or otherwise discharge, into such system, any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than stormwater.
1. The following discharges are exempt from the prohibition provision above:
 - a. Water line flushing performed by a government agency, other potable water sources, landscape irrigation or lawn watering, diverted stream flows, rising ground water, ground water infiltration to storm drains, uncontaminated pumped ground water, foundation or footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems), crawl space pumps, air conditioning condensation, springs, natural riparian habitat or wetland flows, and any other water source not containing pollutants;
 - b. Discharges or flows from firefighting, and other discharges specified in writing by the City of Alpharetta as being necessary to protect public health and safety;
 - c. The prohibition provision above shall not apply to any non-stormwater discharge permitted under an NPDES permit or order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the State and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval from the City Engineer has been granted for any discharge to the City's separate storm sewer system.
- D. *Prohibition of Illegal Connections.* The construction, connection, use, maintenance or continued existence of any illegal connection to the City's separate storm sewer system is prohibited.
1. This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illegal connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.
 2. A person violates this ordinance if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the City's separate storm sewer system, or allows such a connection to continue.
 3. The person responsible for any connection in violation of this Ordinance shall immediately cause the illegal connection to be disconnected and redirected, if necessary to Fulton County's sanitary sewer system upon approval by the Director of Fulton County' sanitary sewer department or an approved onsite wastewater management system. Such person shall provide the City Engineer with written confirmation that the connection has been disconnected, and, if necessary, redirected to Fulton County sanitary sewer.
 4. Any drain or conveyance that has not been documented in plans, maps or equivalent, and which may be connected to the storm sewer system, shall be located by the owner or occupant of that property upon receipt of written notice of violation from the City Engineer requiring that such locating be completed. Such notice will specify a reasonable time period within which the location of the drain or conveyance is to be completed, that the drain or conveyance be identified as storm sewer, sanitary sewer or other, and that the outfall location or point of connection to the storm sewer system, sanitary sewer system or other discharge point be identified. Results of these investigations are to be documented and provided to the City Engineer.
- E. *Industrial or Construction Activity Discharges.* Any person subject to an industrial or construction activity NPDES stormwater discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit may be required in a form acceptable to the City Engineer prior to allowing discharges to the City's separate storm sewer system.
- F. *Access and Inspection of Properties and Facilities.* Representatives of the City shall be permitted to enter and inspect properties and facilities at reasonable times as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this ordinance.

1. If a property or facility has security measures in force which require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the owner or operator shall make the necessary arrangements to allow access to representatives of the City.
 2. The owner or operator shall allow representatives of the City ready access to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling, photography, videotaping, examination and copying of any records that are required under the conditions of an NPDES permit to discharge stormwater.
 3. The City shall have the right to set up on any property or facility such devices as are necessary in the opinion of representatives of the City to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of flow discharges.
 4. The City may require the owner or operator to install monitoring equipment and perform monitoring as necessary, and make the monitoring data available to the **Engineering**/Public Works Department. This sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition by the owner or operator at his/her own expense. All devices used to measure flow and quality shall be calibrated to ensure their accuracy.
 5. Any temporary or permanent obstruction to safe and easy access to the property or facility to be inspected and/or sampled shall be promptly removed by the owner or operator at the written or oral request of the City Engineer and shall not be replaced. The costs of clearing such access shall be borne by the owner or operator.
 6. Unreasonable delays in allowing representatives of the City access to a facility is a violation of this ordinance.
 7. If a representative of the City has been refused access to any part of the premises from which stormwater is discharged, and the representative of the City is able to demonstrate probable cause to believe that there may be a violation of this ordinance, or that there is a need to inspect and/or sample as part of a routine inspection and sampling program designed to verify compliance with this ordinance or any order issued hereunder, or to protect the overall public health, safety, environment and welfare of the community, then the representative of the City may seek issuance of a search warrant from any court of competent jurisdiction.
- G. *Notification of Accidental Discharges and Spills.* Notwithstanding other requirements of law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility, activity or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility, activity or operation has information of any known or suspected release of pollutants or non-stormwater discharges from that facility or operation which are resulting or may result in illicit discharges or pollutants discharging into stormwater, the City's separate storm sewer system, State Waters, or Waters of the U.S., said person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the discovery, containment, and cleanup of such release so as to minimize the effects of the discharge.

Said person shall notify the **Engineering**/Public Works Department by phone, facsimile, or in person within 24 hours of the nature, quantity and time of occurrence of the discharge. Notifications in person or by phone shall be confirmed by written notice addressed and mailed to the **Engineering**/Public Works Department within three business days of the phone or in person notice. If the discharge of prohibited materials emanates from a commercial or industrial establishment, the owner or operator of such establishment shall also retain an on-site written record of the discharge and the actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years. Said person shall also take immediate steps to ensure no recurrence of the discharge or spill.

In the event of such a release of hazardous materials, emergency response agencies and/or other appropriate agencies shall be immediately notified.

Failure to provide notification of a release as provided above is a violation of this ordinance.