SC DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Best Management Practices: Preventing Common Nonpoint Source Pollutants

Clean water and healthy environments begin with understanding actions that help prevent pollution. Watershed plans recommend the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can help reduce and prevent pollutants entering waterways from point and nonpoint sources.

Below is a list of frequently used on-the-ground BMPs recommended in watershed plans to address the common *nonpoint* source pollutants of nutrients, bacteria and sediment. Download the U.S. EPA's **Pollution Load Estimation Tool (PLET) BMP** descriptions and **pollutant efficiencies** document (both available at **epa.gov**) for more information regarding nutrient and sediment loading. While many of these BMPs may help reduce bacteria loading, these benefits are not quantified through PLET.

The list below is not exhaustive, and additional BMPs may be included in watershed plans as appropriate.

Best Management Practice	Pollutant Addressed		
	Nutrients	Bacteria	Sediment
Conservation Tillage	✓	✓	✓
Cover Crops	✓	✓	✓
Heavy Use Area Protection	✓	✓	✓
Livestock Exclusion Fencing & Alternate Water Source	✓	✓	✓
Livestock Waste Management	✓	✓	
Rotational Grazing	✓	✓	✓
Nutrient Management	✓		
Wildlife Management	✓	✓	✓
Pet Waste Stations	✓	✓	
Septic System Repair/Replacement	✓	✓	
Constructed Wetlands	✓	✓	✓
Infiltration Ditches	✓	✓	✓
Porous Pavement	✓	✓	✓

Rain Garden/ Bioretention Basin	✓	✓	✓
Riparian Buffer Protection/Restoration	✓	✓	✓
Settling Basins	✓	✓	✓
Stormwater Cisterns/Vaults	✓	✓	✓
Stream Daylighting	✓	✓	✓
Streambank & Shoreline Protection & Restoration	✓	✓	✓
Tree Boxes	✓	✓	✓
Vegetated Swales	✓	✓	✓
Vegetative Buffers	✓	✓	✓
Land Protection	✓	✓	✓

In addition to “on-the-ground" BMPs, watershed plans often include local or statewide policy recommendations and/or recommendations for education and outreach campaigns to help communities address nonpoint sources of pollution.

Additional Considerations	**Pollutant**		
	Nutrients	**Bacteria**	**Sediment**
Policy Recommendations* • Land Protection • Riparian Buffer Protection • Septic System Inspection and/or Maintenance • Slow/No Wake Zones • Wetlands Protection	✓	✓	✓
Education & Outreach Campaigns • Nutrient Management • Pet Waste Disposal • Septic System Maintenance • Slow/No Wake Zones • Soil Health	✓	✓	✓

**Watershed plan recommendations are made by the authors of the plan and do not necessarily reflect the views of SCDES.*

Visit **des.sc.gov/NPS** for additional information and resources to reduce and prevent nonpoint source pollution in South Carolina's waterways.