

**PURPOSE**

Town of Bluffton (Town) is located in an important coastal area that offers a wide range of historical, cultural, and recreational attractions. The Town's residents desire to maintain the character of their communities and sustain and improve the excellent quality of life that the area provides. Equally important to the residents of the Town is the protection of the environment that helps the Town remain the unique place that it is. Preservation of the Town's unique aquatic ecosystems, especially the May and New River watersheds is particularly important.

It is the purpose of the Town Stormwater Management Program (Program) to meet the current and anticipated needs of the Town. As part of its duties, the Department of Environmental Protection administers stormwater services for the protection of public and private properties, rivers, estuaries, and other water bodies from the potential damage resulting from uncontrolled stormwater releases and non-point source pollution.

The Town's Stormwater Management Design Manual (Manual) is a comprehensive tool for the application of stormwater management controls and stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) aimed at improving the water quality of stormwater. It contains rules and minimum requirements for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of all drainage facilities within Town and all areas subject to its jurisdiction. Definitions, formulas, criteria, procedures, and data presented herein have been developed to support the Stormwater Management Ordinance. If a conflict arises between the technical data and the Ordinance, the Ordinance shall govern.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The goals and objectives of the Program and the Manual are as follows:

1. Protect human life and health.
2. Prevent new development and redevelopment from creating a demand for public investment in flood-control and water quality improvement works.
3. Improve the quality of stormwater runoff discharge to surface waters and groundwater.
4. Provide an effective stormwater management system that will not result in excessive public or private funds being used for maintenance and replacement of existing components of the stormwater system.
5. Facilitate the design of drainage systems that are consistent with good engineering practice and design, water quality protection, and in accordance with the Town's overall planning efforts and stormwater management planning.
6. Provide a mechanism that allows for development with minimum adverse effects to the natural environment.
7. Encourage preservation of the natural drainage systems in an aesthetically pleasing condition as best possible.
8. Minimize private and public property damage resulting from erosion, sedimentation, and flooding.
9. Ensure Town compliance with all applicable Federal and State regulations.

## **JURISDICTION**

Upon adoption of the Stormwater Management Ordinance by Town Council, the specifications and standards contained herein shall be applicable to all development and redevelopment within the regulatory jurisdiction of Town.

## **DISCLAIMER**

This Manual is established to provide the Town, its Administrator(s), their duly appointed representatives, property owners, developers, engineers, surveyors, and builders a better understanding of acceptable engineering methods to meet the intent of the Town 's Program and Stormwater Management Ordinance. Design of stormwater management for development requires the experienced judgment of the designer. The Town accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or injury as a result of the use of the Manual.

The application of the Stormwater Management Ordinance and the provisions expressed herein are the minimum stormwater management requirements and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other powers granted by statute. In addition, if site characteristics indicate that complying with the Town's minimum stormwater management requirements will not provide adequate design or protection for local property or residents, the Town, as part of its review process will require the owner and operator of these facilities to exceed the minimum stormwater management practices, control techniques design and engineering methods and such other programs and controls as are required.