

For more information on the proper selection and use of erosion and sediment control BMPs, please visit the following links:

[Maine Erosion & Sediment Control Practices Field Guide for Contractors](http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/escbmps/esc_bmp_field.pdf)

www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/escbmps/esc_bmp_field.pdf

[Maine Erosion & Sediment Control Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) Manual for Designers & Engineers](http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/escbmps/esc_bmp_engineers.pdf)

www.maine.gov/dep/land/erosion/escbmps/esc_bmp_engineers.pdf



Erosion & Sediment Control Guide for Construction Projects

Erosion & Sediment Control Regulations

Maine law requires any activity that disturbs soil to prevent erosion through the appropriate use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The State created guidance manuals to help **contractors** and **designers** comply with the law and requires contractors working within the Shoreland Zone (defined as 250' from most surface waters) to be **certified in the use of BMPs**.



City regulations include performance standards to prevent soil erosion and protect water resources. To comply with **State Stormwater Permit** requirements and provide further protections for water resources, the City also established **construction project oversight procedures** and an accompanying **inspection process**.

For more information, please contact Stormwater Program Coordinator Fred Dillon at 207-347-4138 / fdillon@southportland.org.

Why it Matters

The State identifies soil erosion as “the number one pollutant” for surface water resources. The City of South Portland currently has **five streams that do not meet State water quality standards**, primarily due to adverse impacts from surrounding development. **Poorly managed construction sites can contribute significantly to these adverse impacts**.



South Portland is largely defined by the water that surrounds it - the Fore River to the north and Casco Bay to the east. Therefore, protecting these vital water resources also protects the City’s identity as a desirable destination for residents, businesses and visitors.



Construction Projects & Water Pollution

Construction projects significantly change the surface of the land. Vegetation clearing, excavating, filling, grading, and ground compaction all have potentially negative consequences including:

- Reduced infiltration
- Increased runoff
- Higher soil erosion rates



Poorly managed construction projects increase pollutant discharges to surface waters, including:

- Sediment and turbidity
- Petroleum products
- Concrete byproducts
- Nutrients
- Metals
- Garbage

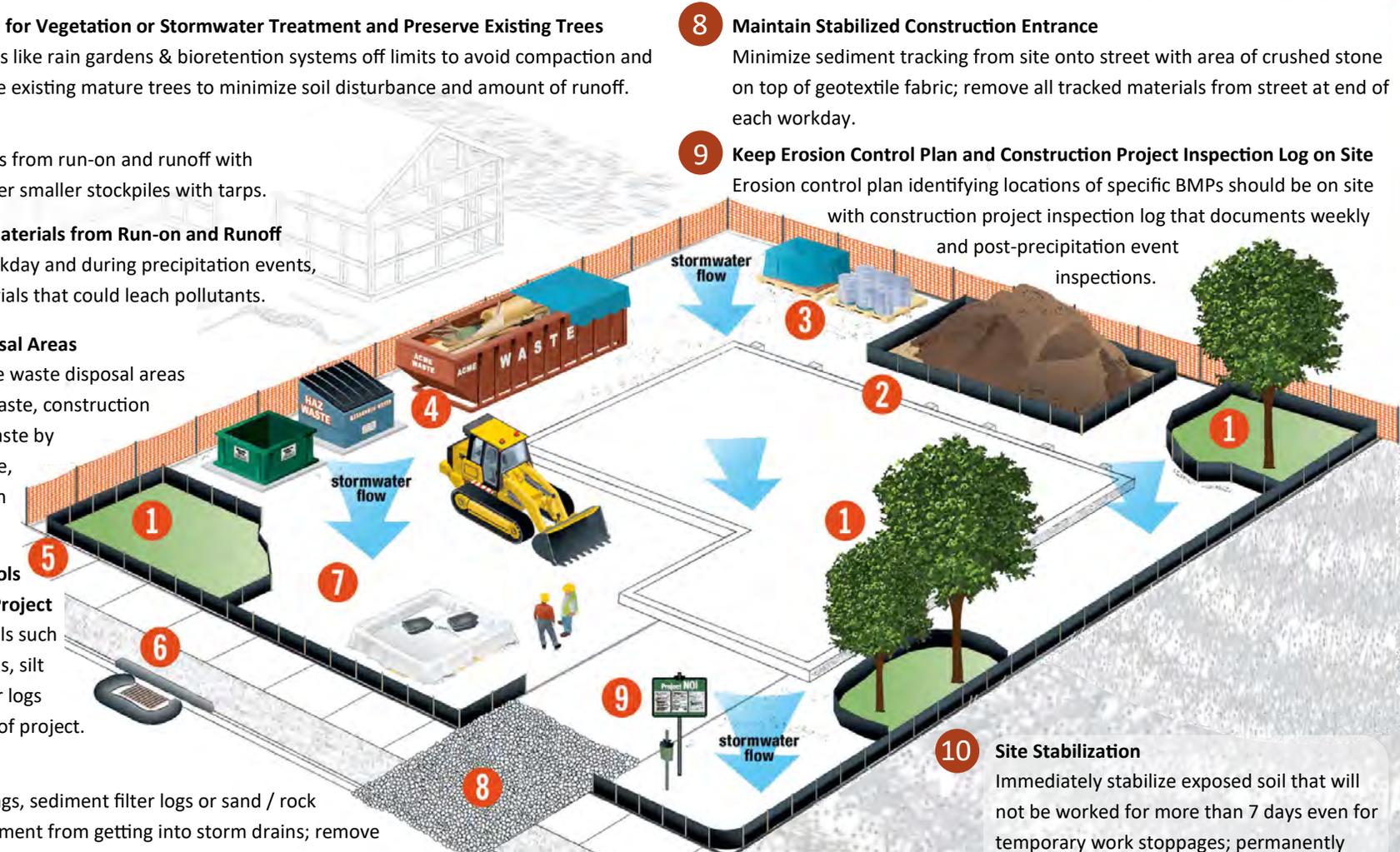
Soil erosion and sedimentation can occur at construction sites if proper Best Management Practices (BMPs) aren’t used and exposed soil is transported by rain and melting snow into nearby storm drains and water resources.

Planning for Erosion Control and Pollution Prevention on Construction Project Sites

To help protect the region's vitally important and valuable water resources, this Environmental Protection Agency illustration was adapted by the City of South Portland to assist designers, developers and contractors with creating and implementing effective erosion control and pollution prevention plans for construction project sites.

10 Steps to Stormwater Pollution Prevention on Construction Project Sites

Stormwater management on construction sites does not need to be complicated



- 1 Protect Areas Reserved for Vegetation or Stormwater Treatment and Preserve Existing Trees**
Keep infiltration systems like rain gardens & bioretention systems off limits to avoid compaction and sedimentation; preserve existing mature trees to minimize soil disturbance and amount of runoff.
- 2 Soil Stockpiling**
Protect all soil stockpiles from run-on and runoff with perimeter controls; cover smaller stockpiles with tarps.
- 3 Protect Construction Materials from Run-on and Runoff**
At the end of every workday and during precipitation events, provide cover for materials that could leach pollutants.
- 4 Designate Waste Disposal Areas**
Clearly identify separate waste disposal areas on site for hazardous waste, construction waste, and domestic waste by designating with signage, and protect from run-on and runoff.
- 5 Install Perimeter Controls on Downhill Edges of Project**
Install perimeter controls such as erosion control berms, silt fence, or sediment filter logs around downhill edges of project.
- 6 Install Inlet Controls**
Use catch basin filter bags, sediment filter logs or sand / rock barriers to prevent sediment from getting into storm drains; remove accumulated sediment frequently and regularly.
- 7 Install Concrete Washout Basin**
Designate leak-proof basin lined with plastic for concrete washing and NEVER wash concrete directly into storm drain or stream.
- 8 Maintain Stabilized Construction Entrance**
Minimize sediment tracking from site onto street with area of crushed stone on top of geotextile fabric; remove all tracked materials from street at end of each workday.
- 9 Keep Erosion Control Plan and Construction Project Inspection Log on Site**
Erosion control plan identifying locations of specific BMPs should be on site with construction project inspection log that documents weekly and post-precipitation event inspections.
- 10 Site Stabilization**
Immediately stabilize exposed soil that will not be worked for more than 7 days even for temporary work stoppages; permanently stabilize site upon project completion.

DISCLAIMER: this flyer is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as a substitute for site-specific recommendations by qualified professionals.