

Summary of
CITY OF HUNTSVILLE REQUIREMENTS FOR EROSION CONTROL

(Particularly as it applies to permanent control in subdivisions)

Definitions

Erosion is defined as the wearing away of the ground surface as a result of the movement of wind, water, and/or ice. ¹

Erosion control practices are designed to prevent soil particles from being detached; whereas, sediment control practices prevent the detached particles from leaving the site or entering receiving water. ²

The basic requirements for erosion control are contained in The City of Huntsville's Storm Water Management Manual and are applicable to all subdivision work. The City's regulations require all subdivision plans to include an erosion and sediment control plan ³ in part to reduce the impact on public and private property caused by the accumulation of mud, dirt, water, debris, and other construction material. ⁴ The construction plans submittal "requires location, description, and details of all temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control including...permanent ground cover types and application rates." ⁵ Exposure scheduling can have a significant effect on gross soil loss ⁶; therefore, plan submittals are required to include an implementation schedule for erosion control measures and final stabilization. ^{3,7}

Surface stabilization measures are required by the City's Storm Water Management Manual when land is cleared or existing conditions of the soil surface are altered. Several stabilization measures/techniques are listed in chapter 10 of the manual. Of the measures listed, only seeding / vegetation and riprap are considered permanent.

Vegetative cover is required to be re-established immediately on all disturbed areas and to the extent possible, surface stabilization measures shall provide permanent protection once construction is complete. ⁸ The Engineer of Record is required to provide certification that erosion control measures and other improvements are complete and functional as the final step in the process. ⁹

References:

1. 1991 Subdivision Regulation for the City of Huntsville, adopted by resolution 22-90, article 2.2.
2. Huntsville Stormwater Management Manual, 1991, article 10.1.2.
3. Huntsville Stormwater Management Manual, 1991, article 3.2.6.
4. Huntsville Stormwater Management Manual, 1991, article 2.1 and 1991 Subdivision Regulation for the City of Huntsville, article 1.2.
5. Subdivision Regulation for the City of Huntsville, 1991; Article 3.3 (4) D (viii).
6. Huntsville Stormwater Management Manual, 1991, article 10.2.4.
7. Subdivision Regulation for the City of Huntsville, 1991; Article 3.3 (4) D (ix).
8. Storm Water Management, 1991; Sections 2.3 and 10.2.
9. Storm Water Management, 1991; Section 2.7