

## SECTION 1 – PREFACE

This manual is intended for use as a technical reference by developers, planners, engineers, government officials and others involved in land use planning, building site development, and natural resource conservation in rural and urban communities and developing areas.

The standards and associated materials describe best management practices (BMPs) for controlling non-point source pollution impacts that affect ecosystems in existing communities and developing areas. The manual includes an array of BMPs in the following broad categories:

- soil erosion and sediment control;
- stormwater management;
- green infrastructure
- special area protection.

Beyond conventional BMP considerations, the manual addresses fish and wildlife habitat improvement, visual and environmental quality and other relevant ecosystem enhancement applications. Where previous BMP manuals have tended to focus on limited aspects of construction site erosion or stormwater runoff control, this manual is designed for more comprehensive, multi-objective ecosystem protection and enhancement.

This manual supersedes the Illinois EPA's 1987 *"Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control"* (commonly known as the "Yellowbook") and the original "1995 Illinois Urban Manual." It also replaces Chapter 6, entitled "Procedures and Specifications", of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District's 1988 *"Procedures and Standards for Urban Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control in Illinois"* (commonly known as the "Greenbook").

This manual was originally prepared for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Illinois. Initially released in 1995, the manual is currently being revised by the Illinois Urban Manual Partnership, which is comprised of a Steering Committee consisting of public agencies, and a Technical Review Committee made up of federal and state resource agencies, regional planning commissions, local units of government, and the private sector.

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## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

This manual is intended to be a dynamic document. Several sections may stay static for long periods of time. Others, such as sections 4, 5, 6, and 7, will likely be expanded on a regular basis to include additional conservation practice standards, construction specifications, material specifications and standard drawings not yet developed.

This manual sets no policy, rules, regulations or restrictions. However, it is anticipated that various units of government and local, state, or federal agencies would use these technical materials to guide development of policy, ordinances, restrictions, or regulations. If adopted by reference in a regulatory program, such as in a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance adopted by a local jurisdiction, the contents of the manual have the force of law.

No individual section of this manual will contain all the guidance or material necessary to fully assist users to develop or implement site specific plans. Other references or sections of other manuals or handbooks that supplement this publication should be utilized as appropriate. Other primary reference materials to support this manual are listed in the References section of the practice standards or in Section 9 - References. All references to IDOT in the practice standards and on the standard drawings refer to the *Illinois Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*, Adopted January 1, 2012.

Users of the manual are encouraged to contact the following if you have any questions or additional information or assistance is needed:

1. Illinois Urban Manual Partnership: Administering District- Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District, 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St. Charles, Il. 60175, 630-584-7960, [kanedupageswcd.org](http://kanedupageswcd.org)
2. Association of Soil & Water Conservation District (AISWCD), 4285 N. Walnut Street Road, Springfield, Il. 62707. Website: [www.aiswcd.org](http://www.aiswcd.org)
3. Illinois EPA, Bureau of Water - Watershed Management Section, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, PO Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276 (phone 217-782-3362), website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/Pages/default.aspx>

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