CITY OF OAK RIDGE
PUBLIC WORKS
Stormwater Program
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City of Oak Ridge – Land Disturbance Permits

A Guide to Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control

Overview

How to Keep our Waters Healthy

- Sediment is the #1 source of pollution in Tennessee waterways. Uncontrolled runoff during rain events can cause erosion and move sediment from your yard into our lakes, rivers, and creeks. The sediment can move offsite through ditches, pipes, drains, or slopes, and can cause destruction to neighboring properties, road drainage structures, or wildlife habitat.
- As a result of state and federal mandates, the City of Oak Ridge is required to regulate all land disturbing activities to ensure the sediment remains on site. Ultimately, it is the homeowner's responsibility to make sure the correct erosion and sediment control measures are installed and maintained to keep our waterways healthy for everyone to enjoy.

What are my Responsibilities?

- The homeowner is responsible for installing and maintaining proper erosion and sediment control measures. Choosing the proper measures will depend on what type of land disturbing activity you will be doing, the slope of the land, and the nature of the site.
- Before you start your project, observe the natural drainage of your yard then decide which best erosion prevention and sediment control measures will keep the sediment on your site and out of the streets, storm drains, and waterways. Make sure to install these measures prior to starting any work.

How do I close the permit?

- The permit is active until the work specified on the permit is complete. During that time, the City will make periodic visits to the site on an as needed basis to answer any questions, or address any erosion and sedimentation issues.
- Within 15 days of project completion, the permit holder must install permanent ground cover to any disturbed earth. Examples include installation of wood chips, stone, landscape mulch, or a perennial seed mix accompanied by placement of straw mulch /straw blanket (grass seed must be germinated and cover 90% of the area).
- The City will inspect the permanent ground cover and will close out the grading permit. There is no need to schedule a final inspection.

Erosion Prevention and Sedimentation Controls

Construction entrance: If using equipment, create a gravel entrance/exit (2-3" stone) to minimize tracking of sediment into the streets by vehicles or equipment.

Sediment traps: Used to capture sediment and keep it on site. Ensure proper installation by entrenching a portion of the material underground, and securing it in place. Do not use straw bales to capture sediment.

Silt fence

Straw wattle

Stockpile Placement: Place piles of dirt away from drainage paths, and steep slopes. Make sure to stabilize piles before rain events by covering with a tarp, and adding a silt fence around the perimeter.

Mulch or gravel bag berms: Use on hard surfaces or ground that is too compacted to entrench.

Gravel bag berm and mulch berm

Buffers: Maintain a protective vegetative buffer around all ditches, and waterways.

Concrete washout: Contain excess concrete, mixing water, or wash water from construction activities. Do not allow chemicals to runoff into storm drains, and waterways.

Inlet protection: Protect storm drains by lining grates with filter fabric, or surround with gravel bags.

Sediment Cleanup: Clean any sediment accumulation in sediment traps and sweep/ shovel any material from the street or neighboring properties immediately.

Drainage: Permanent swales/dikes along adjoining lot lines should be provided as needed to direct on-site drainage to the street or existing drainage ways. Roof gutters, and other permanent storm drainage systems should be directed to avoid damage to adjacent property owners.

Re-vegetation: Permanently stabilize ALL disturbed areas by seeding and mulching (straw) as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after you finish the project.

**For more controls please refer to TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook*

City of Oak Ridge
Public Works Department
100 Woodbury Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37831
Phone: 865-425-1875

Website: stormwater.oakridgeTN.gov
Facebook.com/HealthyWatersProgram