Stormwater Ordinance and Grading Permit Summary

The purpose of this Ordinance is to control or eliminate Storm Water pollution along with soil erosion and sedimentation within the City through requirements and standards for conservation practices and planning activities.

The tool used to ensure erosion and sediment control on construction sites is through the use of a City issued Grading Permit. A Grading Permit is required for any project, which disturbs an area of greater than or equal to one acre. Requirements of the Grading Permit application include, but are not limited to:

a) A site area map showing drainage and adequate erosion and sedimentation BMPs (Best Management Practices) to control runoff from disturbed areas.
b) Maintenance and Inspection frequencies.
c) Temporary and final stabilization techniques.
d) A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Sheet included with project plans per MPCA NPDES General Permit for Construction requirements.

(For all requirements regarding the City Grading Permit, refer to the Grading Permit Application.)

The Ordinance also regulates wetlands and the areas around wetlands. Wetlands maintain water quality and are critical to Storm Water management. Wetlands must be delineated to determine functional value or quality. Wetlands are classified as High, Medium or Low quality based on the MNRAM Assessment (Minnesota Routine Assessment Method). Buffer strip widths and setbacks are required dependant upon wetland classification. Wetland buffer strips are to be untouched and left in a natural state to allow runoff to be filtered before discharging to the wetland itself. Buffer strip signage is required at all property corners adjacent to the wetland in new developments.