



Don't Lose Money Down the Storm Drain!

How to Avoid Costly Stormwater Mistakes Before You Break Ground

Does this site have to meet water quality, retention, or Low-Impact Development requirements?

YES

NO

Does my buyer want green infrastructure?

YES

NO

Proceed with property purchase and development.

Consider the following before purchasing or developing land:

- Can I minimize grading** by maintaining the existing drainage features and paths?
- Can I preserve buffers** along drainage features and transform these areas into green space and recreational features?
- Can I install the main infrastructure** (i.e., roads and utilities) while preserving mature trees and existing vegetation?
- Can I leave the lots in their natural state** to minimize clearing and grubbing costs and to allow lot owners to decide what existing trees are preserved?

- What portion** of stormwater requirements will be met at the development level and what portion at the lot level?

If you have a retention standard, consider the following:

- Will existing soils infiltrate the required retention amount?
- Is the groundwater level low enough to allow green infrastructure?
- Am I eligible to take advantage of offsite compliance options such as a fee-in-lieu program?

Now that you've estimated stormwater costs, decide whether property is worth purchasing.



Learn more at [NAHB.org/stormwater](https://www.nahb.org/stormwater)