



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Civil Engineers, Landscape Architects, and developers who may be developing plans for renovations and new sites

**FROM:** David Scanlan, P.E., City Engineer

**DATE:** May 5, 2009

**RE:** Post Construction Stormwater Treatment Practice in Cedar Falls

This Memo is to notify site designers of an alternative for storm water treatment by the City of Cedar Falls.

**Preferred Stormwater Treatment Practice:**

- The City of Cedar Falls will allow the substitution of soft armoring [turf reinforcement mats (TRMs) and transitional mats] in place of hard armoring as long as the soft armoring has the same or better properties of the hard armoring. This will be defined by the performance standards (velocity and shear stresses) of the soft armoring verified by an independent and third party testing. The party proposing an alternative product must provide their performance verification data at their own costs.
- Calculating TRMs performance requirements must use their unvegetated, or installation-day performance ratings.
- Vegetated swales and /or soft armor protection are preferred downstream of storm water runoff outlets, overflow-structures, pipes, and culverts. This practice supports all bio-retention/filtration type practices as part of a 'green' solution for reducing, filtering, and preventing runoff pollution, recharging groundwater, as well as helping us achieve our NPDES Phase II requirements.
- The vegetation swales would be reinforced by either hard or soft armoring, as needed, at potential scour areas, and in areas of the channels where the velocity and shear dictate that vegetation alone would not keep them from eroding.
- The City of Cedar Falls is open to and encourages the use of 'green alternatives'.

David Scanlan, P. E.  
City Engineer of Cedar Falls

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