



## Stormwater Treatment Code Fact Sheet

**Contact Information:** Shane Williams, Alachua County EPD 352-264-6831;  
eswilliams@alachuacounty.us

**Background:** On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Stormwater Treatment Code as Article III of the County Water Quality Code.

- The purpose of the Stormwater Treatment Code is to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges to the County's surface waters and groundwater during rainfall events.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus are vital nutrients for plant growth but excessive amounts can cause water quality issues in our springs, rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

**Applicability:** Applies to all new development in Alachua County (incorporated and unincorporated areas) that includes the construction of a stormwater management system. The effective date is January 1, 2019.

### Exemptions

- ✓ Bona fide agricultural activities
- ✓ Single family residences and accessory structures
- ✓ Family Homestead subdivisions
- ✓ Roadway modifications within existing County and Municipal rights-of-way
- ✓ Redevelopment, defined as a site that is currently 40% or more impervious
- ✓ Off-site treatment facilities permitted and constructed before January 1, 2019
- ✓ Projects discharging to exempt facilities that have also obtained a Water Management District permit modification for the exempt off-site facility
- ✓ Projects with the following prior to April 23, 2019: a Final Development Plan submitted for review, an approved Preliminary Development Plan, an approved Water Management District permit.
- ✓ Projects receiving: rezoning approval with master plan, development of regional impact approval, special exception or special use permit with a master plan, or development order granting construction permits or subdivision approval by April 23, 2019.
- ✓ Projects with less than 10% of the total project boundary in the Sensitive Karst Area are exempt from the karst criteria.

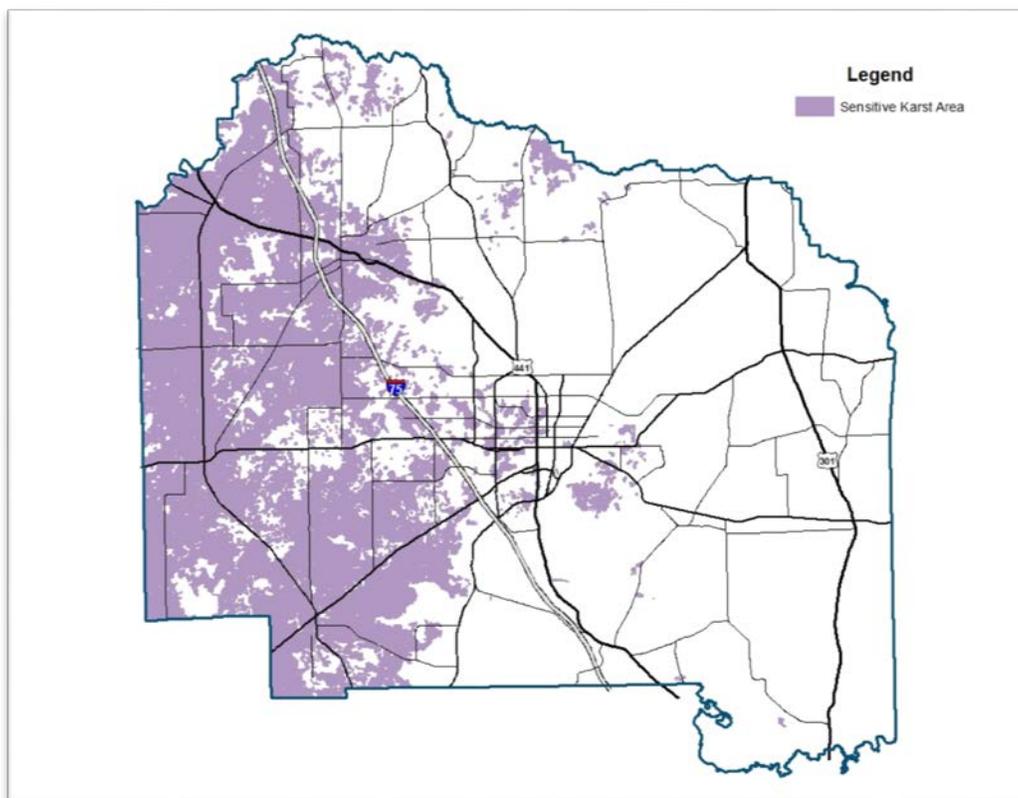
### The Design Standards:

#### Discharges to Surface Water

- Reduce 70% of post-development total nitrogen load and 80% of post-development total phosphorus load.
- For direct discharges to Outstanding Florida Waters, the reduction requirement increases to 95% for both nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Within the watershed of a verified impaired waterbody or with an adopted nutrient TMDL, meet the greater of the applicable standard above or 10% below pre-development load.

#### Discharges to Groundwater

- For projects using retention Best Management Practices (e.g. a retention pond) in the Sensitive Karst Area, treat the first 1" of runoff with one or more Low Impact Design techniques.
- For projects using Rapid Infiltration Stormwater Retention Basins, use appropriate BMPs to reduce the post-development total nitrogen loading into the groundwater by 70%.



- ♣ The Sensitive Karst Area is defined as the areas designated as “high vulnerability” or “vulnerable” zones of the Floridan Aquifer as defined by the Alachua County Stormwater Treatment Manual, and with soil types classified as “excessively drained”, “somewhat excessively drained”, or “well drained” as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for Florida.
- ♣ Site specific soils data may be provided by the applicant for the determination of whether the site is located in the Sensitive Karst Area.

**The Approval Process:** For projects in both incorporated and unincorporated areas, submit all of the items from the following list to the Environmental Protection Department within 30 days of submitting an application for development approval.

#### **Checklist of Required Submittal Items**

- ✓ Project site plans clearly indicating the proposed BMPs used to meet Stormwater Treatment Performance Standards;
- ✓ Calculated nitrogen and phosphorous load reductions for each of the BMPs used and for the overall stormwater management system, including supporting documentation and data;
- ✓ Operation & Maintenance requirements for each BMP used and the entity responsible for the implementation of the requirements;
- ✓ An affidavit from a registered Professional Engineer, Architect, or Landscape Architect in the State of Florida, certifying that the stormwater system meets all of the requirements of the Alachua County Stormwater Treatment Code.

- ♣ For projects in incorporated areas of the County, a complete project submittal constitutes a self-certification of compliance and will receive a letter of acknowledgement.
- ♣ Projects in unincorporated areas will be reviewed during the regular land development review process and may receive review comments.