

Sediment forms deltas in lakes and streams and clogs storm sewer outlets, trapping unsightly debris. Shallow areas in lakes can create boating hazards.

- **Increased local taxes**  
It is time consuming and expensive to clean sediment from streets, sewers, lakes, creeks and ditches. When erosion is not managed onsite, it often becomes the city's job to correct the problem.

### CITY ORDINANCE sets standards for erosion control.

City of Plymouth City Code Section 425 and 800.03 set standards for managing erosion to protect both property and water quality. These standards apply to all private property, and are especially relevant to sites where soil is exposed for projects like building, remodeling or landscaping.

- **No eroded material allowed on public property**  
Property owners must take measures to ensure that dirt, sand, silt or other debris does not erode onto public property, including streets, trails, ponds and wetlands. In the event that erosion occurs, the property owner is liable for costs associated with cleanup, property damage and the installation of appropriate erosion control measures.
- **Sample erosion control measures**  
Sod, silt fences and hay bales are some examples of measures that control erosion.

## CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

Ben Scharenbroich, **City of Plymouth**  
bscharenbroich@plymouthmn.gov  
763-509-5527

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**  
pca.state.mn.us/stormwater

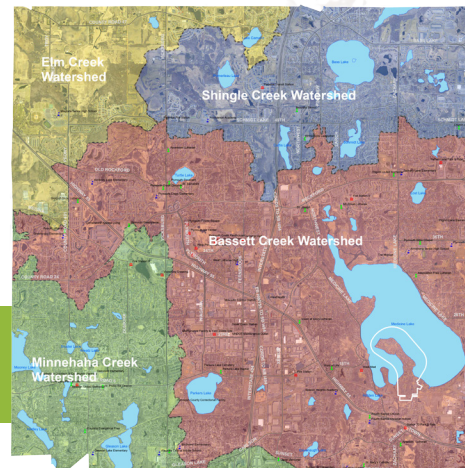
## WATERSHEDS

**Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization**  
bassettcreekwmo.org  
952-270-1990

**Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization**  
elmcreekwatershed.org  
763-553-1144

**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District**  
minnehahacreek.org  
952-471-0590

**Shingle Creek Watershed Management Organization**  
shinglecreek.org  
763-553-1144



Requirements for builders, remodelers and property owners

City of Plymouth 

**EROSION CONTROL** is a key component in Plymouth's commitment to water quality.

The City of Plymouth is committed to protecting the water quality of its lakes, streams and wetlands. Erosion from construction sites, if not properly managed, is a leading cause of water quality problems. In fact, officials in a Wisconsin study found that the amount of soil washed into lakes and streams from each acre under construction would fill 1.5 dump trucks.

### EFFECTS OF POOR EROSION CONTROL

- **Increased weed and algae growth**  
Fertilizers, nutrients and other pollutants attach to eroded sediment. The nutrient-laden sediment is carried by storm water runoff into lakes, streams and wetlands where it fuels the growth of algae and weeds.
- **Poor fishing**  
Water clouded by sediment drives away fish that rely on sight to feed. As the sediment settles, it covers gravel beds where game fish find food and lay eggs.
- **Lower property values**  
A lake or stream clogged with sediment diminishes the value of nearby properties.





## EROSION CONTROL BASICS

From an entire subdivision to a modest remodeling job, projects of any size that involve disturbing the soil require erosion control measures.

Developments that involve building on more than one lot require a formal city review process. Developers should seek guidance from city staff.

Builders and homeowners working on a single building or lot should follow the guidelines in this publication.

Following are some general erosion control guidelines. Site-specific requirements, if any, are indicated in a site grading plan of each project.



## CONTACT YOUR WATERSHED

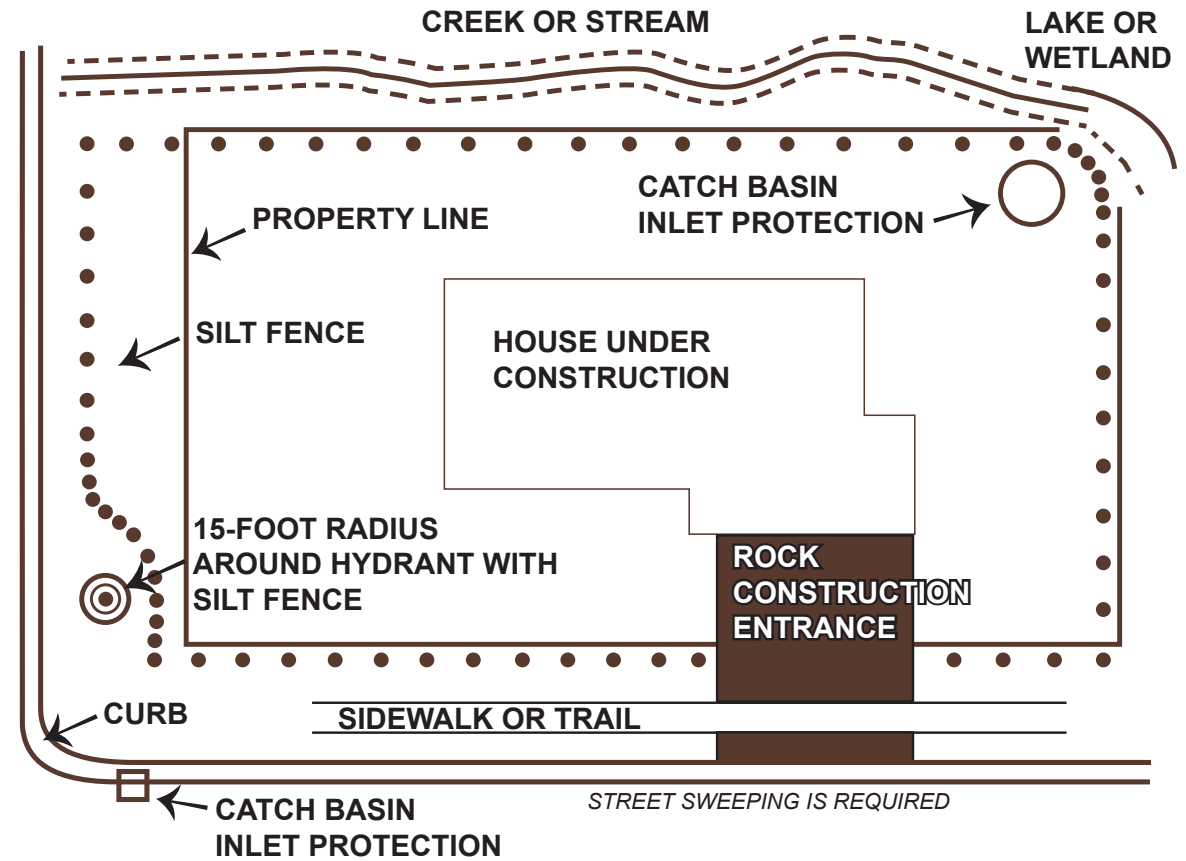
Watershed management organizations and watershed districts often have guidelines and restrictions that apply to erosion control. So check with your watershed before starting a project. Contact information for watersheds in Plymouth is printed on the back of this publication.

## EXAMPLES OF EROSION CONTROL MEASURES

- Silt fence**  
 Place bottom flap of filter fabric in a 6" X 6" trench. Backfill and compact soil. Install wire fencing on the downhill side of the filter fabric. Bury bottom 2" of wire fencing. Stake with metal posts, driven a minimum of 12" into the soil. Make sure metal posts are no more than 4' on center.
- Rock entrance**  
 Install prior to the start of grading. Use 1-1/2 to 2-inch washed rock. Drive must be at least 50 feet in length, and as wide as required by the operations of your project. Replace rock as needed to maintain a minimum 6" depth. A geotextile fabric may be used under the rock to prevent the migration of the underlying soil into the rock.



### RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION erosion control standards



## INSPECTION CHECKLIST for builders and homeowners

A city inspector will visit building sites to review all erosion control measures. The following practices will help ensure that all erosion control measures meet city specifications.

- Curbside erosion control**  
 Erosion control must be maintained behind the curb until permanent vegetation is established. One 20-foot driveway entrance is permitted for each lot. If this is not sufficient for certain delivery vehicles, the silt fence may be temporarily taken down to permit
- Streets**  
 Any mud or dirt tracked onto public or private streets must be removed as soon as possible.
- Remove erosion control devices**  
 Erosion control devices must be removed when permanent turf is established.
- Pond or wetland erosion control**  
 Erosion control must be maintained around all wetlands, ponds or buffer zones until permanent vegetation is established.

access, but must be reinstalled before the end of that day.

## PROCEDURES FOR VIOLATIONS

When violations are noted, builders and property owners will receive a written notice to make corrections within 48 hours.

If the work to correct the violations is not completed by the time of the re-inspection, a "stop work order" may be issued.

If corrective measures are not carried out properly, the city will hire out necessary work and will assess the cost of that work to the property owner(s) in the manner prescribed in Plymouth City Code Section 800.03.