

DURHAM



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CITY OF MEDICINE

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To: All Development Community Members, Consultants and Development Design Professionals

From: Jennifer Buzun, PE
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Subject: Letter to Industry 12-02-16 – Soils Series and Hydrologic Soil Group Determination

Background

Section 8.0 of the City of Durham’s Reference Guide for Development contains Table 1, “Hydrologic Soil Group for Soils in Durham County”. During a recent rezoning case, it came to light that many of the soil series in Durham County had been updated with respect to Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG), and that Table 1 was out of date. Per the USDA-NRCS Raleigh Office, “The official soil data for any county is the Web Soil Survey. The hardcopy soil survey reports are now for historical reference. Those who are using the web soil survey are using the latest information available.” We do want to emphasize that this pertains to soil data and not surface water identification shown for the purpose of riparian buffer protection standards. The hardcopy soil survey report for Durham County shall continue to be used as one of the resource materials for determination of streams on a site.

Determination of Soil Type and HSG

For the purposes of hydrologic and water quality analyses used to comply with the City’s Stormwater Performance Standards for Development, the Natural Resources Conservation Service website <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm> shall be used to determine what soil series are present on the development site. This web site shall also be used to retrieve the HSG classification of that soil series. The attachment “Retrieving Hydrologic Soil Group Data from the NRCS Web Soil Survey” can assist with this.

Timing

The implementation of this requirement will take place immediately on all new site plan submittals.

Attachment: [Retrieving_Hydrologic_Soil_Group_Data_from_the_NRCS_Web_Soil_Survey.pdf](#)