

Backyard Wetlands

Definition/Purpose

Backyard wetlands are constructed systems that mimic the functions of natural wetlands. A backyard wetland can temporarily store, filter and clean runoff from driveways, roofs and lawns and thereby improve water quality. The wetland should be expected to retain water or remain saturated for two to three weeks.

Policies

1. Backyard wetlands shall treat no more than 2500 ft² of impervious surfaces. Refer to the stormwater wetland practice if the planned practice treats more than 2500 ft² of impervious surfaces.
2. If a berm is required to retain water, it should be less than one foot in height. There must be adequate area for flood flows to go around and over the berm.
3. Backyard wetlands shall be placed in low-lying areas where the water table is at or near the ground surface (within one foot). This will ensure proper hydrology within the wetland and provide water for wetland plants during drought conditions.

Specifications

N.C. CCAP Design Manual: Backyard Wetland

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/CCAP/documents/Chapter6-BackyardWetlandDesign.pdf>

Additional resources:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/?cid=nrcs143_023525