

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.

BACKYARD WETLAND	
Lifespan	5 years single-family home, 10 years all other properties
BMP Units	SQUARE FEET
Required Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Total Nitrogen Removed•Total Phosphorus Removed•Total Suspended Solids Removed CCAP BMP Water Quality Benefits Tool
JAA	JAA from the Commission
Supporting Standards	N.C. CCAP Design Manual: Backyard Wetland
CS2 Reference Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NC-CSP-11 Signature Page• Map with BMP location<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backyard Rain Garden and Design Sheet• Rain Garden & Wetland Checklist• Backyard Wetland Operation & Maintenance Plan• Receipts for Actual Costs

Community Conservation Assistance Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receipts Summary form
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Special Considerations:

Soils play a critical role in the function of backyard raingardens and backyard wetlands. Infiltration rates of the soils onsite will affect not only the plant materials, but adjustments to the size of the treatment volume will also help them function better and reduce maintenance. Please refer to Chapter 5 of the CCAP Design Manual for additional information.