

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the Manual being updated?

A: The manual is being updated to address water quality and require the use of the latest technology, methodologies, and data. It is also being updated to remain in compliance with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued by the Arkansas Department of Environment Quality (ADEQ).

Q: Will these updates effect future or existing infrastructure?

A: All new projects will be required to follow the updated standards and regulations. All improvements to existing infrastructure will also be required to adhere to the updated standards.

Q: Who is responsible for maintaining existing infrastructure?

A: The City maintains publicly owned infrastructure. The City currently has a list of projects and is working through the list to help increase the City's ability to manage stormwater. List of current and future City projects can be found here: <https://www.littlerock.gov/city-administration/city-departments/public-works/civil-engineering/bond-projects-by-wards-2023-2025/>

Q: What is the timeline to get the Manual completed and approved?

A: Based on the current schedule, the Manual is set to be approved by June 2024.

Q: Will projects currently in development or construction have to meet the new Manual requirements?

A: All new public and private projects will be subject to the new requirements after the manual is adopted. However, the City may provide a grace period for projects under development but have not yet been submitted to the City.

Q: When was the last time the Manual was updated?

A: The core of the Manual is from the 1980's; however, minor changes and revisions were made in 2016.

Q: How will water quality be addressed?

A: The updated Manual will require contractors to use best management practices (BMPs) to help regulate stormwater discharges from urban land sources to waterbodies. The manual will also require permanent water quality measures to be constructed to comply with the City MS4 permit from ADEQ. The updated Manual will also address the 303(d) Impaired waters list and in the future may require certain actions be taken to ensure the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is not exceeded.

Q: Will the Manual updates impact Contractors?

A: Yes, manual revisions will impact design and construction activities including construction site erosion control.

Q: Are there national standards for stormwater management?

A: There are no state or national standards for stormwater management manuals. However, there are some minimum requirements from state and federal agencies pertaining to certain parts of the manual. Also, there are standard, industry accepted practices for hydrology and hydraulic methodologies and calculations.

Q: Is climate change being considered?

A: The manual will be updated to use NOAA Atlas 14 rainfall, which is the best available and nationally-accepted rainfall data developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The manual revision process will also look at freeboard requirements, factors of safety, or higher standards to make the stormwater infrastructure more resilient to future storms.