

**PARISH OF ASCENSION**  
**OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**



**APPENDIX V**  
**DRAINAGE**

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**ORDINANCE HISTORY**

<b>Ord. #DR07-01 adopted 9/6/07</b>	<b>Ord. #DR15-01, adopted 9/3/15</b>
<b>Ord. #DR09-01, adopted 7/16/09</b>	<b>Ord. #DR15-09, adopted 12/3/15</b>
<b>Ord. #DR09-09, adopted 12/17/09</b>	<b>Ord. #GR for S &amp; R, adopted 10/06/16</b>
<b>Ord. #DR11-01, adopted 6/16/11</b>	<b>Ord. #SR 17-01, adopted 6/15/17</b>
<b>Ord. #DR11-02, adopted 7/21/11</b>	<b>Ord. #DR19-03, adopted on 1/3/19</b>
<b>Ord. #DR11-05, adopted 7/21/11</b>	<b>Ord. #DR19-05, adopted on 9/5/19</b>
<b>Ord. #DR11-04, adopted 8/4/11</b>	
<b>Ord. #DR13-08, adopted 8/1/13</b>	
<b>Ord. #DR13-11, adopted 12/5/13</b>	
<b>Ord. #SR13-14, adopted 1/9/14</b>	
<b>Ord. #DR14-01, adopted 4/23/14</b>	
<b>Ord. #DR14-06, adopted 10/02/14</b>	

**17-501. Purpose and Intent**

- A. The purpose of this Ordinance is to codify the requirements of new development and redevelopment in Ascension Parish. The requirements of this Ordinance are directed at reducing the potential for flood related damages caused by new development and redevelopment of property in Ascension Parish.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09)

**17-502. Plan Approval**

- A. All applicable development and associated elements thereof, as defined herein, and not specifically exempted by this ordinance, must be approved by the Ascension Parish Office of Planning & Development, the Ascension Parish Department of Public Works, and/or the appropriate Drainage District, as applicable.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09)

**17-503. Applicability**

- A. This ordinance shall apply to any proposed development within the Parish regardless of flood zone designation. Development shall be defined as the division of a parcel of land into two or more parcels with associated earthwork, the construction of a new major or minor subdivision, multi-residential or commercial building or structure, the relocation or enlargement of any commercial building or structure, the construction of parking surfaces for commercial developments or the clearing, grading, filling, or movement of land. The following shall be exempt from the requirements of this ordinance as described below:

1. Drainage, soil movement, leveling or cultivation activities performed in conjunction with an agricultural operation. Agricultural operations include land use for the production of crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, horticulture, or any such plant or animal production for sale or resale, or for private use, as long as the soil movement does not significantly alter the existing drainage conditions from or adjacent to the site and does not violate the fill mitigation requirements described in **Section 17-507**.
2. Soil movement and grading, when confined to post-construction residential application of a single-family dwelling for minor grading of yards, driveways, patios, swimming pools or similar homeowner type site improvements as long as the soil movement does not significantly alter the existing drainage conditions from or adjacent to the site and does not violate the fill mitigation requirements described in **Section 17-507**.
3. The placement of fill or spoil material on public lands when such fill or spoil is to be used or excavated for public projects by any Federal, State, or local governmental entity. All other regulatory requirements shall still apply.

4. This ordinance shall not apply to construction or uses of buildings, structures, or land in industrial facilities provided the industrial facility is located in a designated industrial area per **LA RS 33:130** and **Sec. 17-10.-Industrial Areas** in the Ascension Parish Code of Ordinances.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR11-02, 7/21/11; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

#### **17-504. Compliance with Federal and State Regulations**

- A. In addition to the requirements of this ordinance, the owner/developer of any property in Ascension Parish shall be responsible for adhering to all State and Federal laws regulating grading, drainage, and flood control according to established policy. Checklists of Federal and State permits required, and the appropriate time required for submittal to the Parish are available from the Office of Planning & Development.
- B. Permits shall be obtained from all appropriate Federal and State agencies having regulations and laws relative to grading, drainage and flood control, including but not limited to the following:
  1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Coast Guard (USACE)
    - (a) Jurisdictional Wetlands
    - (b) Navigable Streams
  2. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Permits obtained from Parish
    - (a) Construction of structures within flood zones
    - (b) Encroachment on floodways
  3. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
    - (a) Storm water runoff – Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES)
  4. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD)
    - (a) Project and Driveway Permits
  5. Pontchartrain Levee District
    - (a) Construction on or adjacent to the Mississippi River levees
  6. Amite River Basin Commission
    - (a) Construction on or adjacent to Amite River
  7. Department of Natural Resources
    - (a) Coastal Use Permit
  8. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
    - (a) Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers Permit
  9. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
    - (a) Grant Requirements

10. Office of Community Development  
(a) Grant Requirements
11. Coastal Protection Restoration Authority

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-505. Grade requirements for Structures and Roadways**

- A. All proposed structures and roadways shall be constructed to the following criteria:
  1. All elevation information submitted to the Parish shall be referenced to the official list of benchmarks as published by the Department of Public Works or the appropriate Gravity Drainage District. This datum must be consistent with the benchmark datum referenced in the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. (FIRM)
  2. All references to flood zones and elevations shall be as determined by the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Ascension Parish, latest revision. If the FIRM map does not provide a flood elevation for a particular area, guidance for determining the Base Flood Elevation can be found in the DHS/FEMA publication “Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas” by an approximate Hydrologic and Hydraulics Base Level engineer study or by consulting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
  3. The lowest gutter elevation of all proposed public and private roadways shall not be lower than any of the following criteria:
    - (a) One foot below the FEMA Base Flood Elevation (latest edition)
    - (b) Two (2) inches below the design water surface elevation for the interior subsurface storm water conveyance system draining the proposed roadway
    - (c) The twenty-five (25) year design event peak water surface elevation of any storm water detention system receiving runoff from the proposed roadway.
    - (d) All fill under roadways to the roadway surface shall be mitigated in accordance with 17-506.1 and any other relevant portions of Appendix V-Drainage.
  4. The top of the lowest floor on all structures, machinery and the bottom of the I-Beam on Mobile Homes shall be constructed to the following criteria:
    - (a) A minimum of two (2) feet above the FEMA Base Flood Elevation, or nearest adjacent FEMA Base Flood Elevation (indicated on the latest approved FIRM);

- (b) A minimum of one (1) foot above the nearest sanitary sewer manhole, if applicable.
  - (c) Accessory buildings are not subject to the items in **Section 17-505A.4**. However, accessory buildings are subject to FEMA regulations per **Section 17-505A.5**. Deviations to this policy must be based on sound engineering judgment submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Floodplain Administrator.
5. All structures proposed within a recognized FEMA flood zone shall be constructed in accordance with Title 44 of the Federal Register, Part 60.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; SR13-08, 8/1/13, Ord. GR for S & R, 10/06/16; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-506. Protection of Existing Watersheds and Conveyance Systems**

- A. Drainage for proposed developments and redevelopments shall be designed to maintain the existing flow patterns established prior to proposed improvements at the site. Impacts to existing water surface profiles due to additional runoff shall be mitigated for all new development or redevelopment of existing sites not specifically excluded as follows:
  - 1. Redevelopment – Any proposed improvements to a commercial facility that result in a net increase in changed surface of less than 1,750 square feet, or the replacement of less than 3,500 square feet of existing impervious surface area. Any combination of new and replaced surface area totaling more than 3,500 square feet does not qualify for this exemption. All redevelopments are subject to items in **Section 17-507**.
 

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; SR13-14, 1/09/14; DR19-05, 9/5/19)
- B. Storm water detention systems that limit the post developed peak flow rate to the existing condition peak flow rate shall be required for all residential and commercial developments required to mitigate impacts to existing water surface profiles.
 

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; SR13-14, 1/09/14)
- C. The natural ridgelines and drainage boundaries for a site shall be established prior to any development and the developed condition shall maintain the drainage areas draining to each natural outfall as closely as possible. Exceptions will be considered in instances where modifications are necessary to consolidate engineered storm system elements.
- D. Where an existing storm water conveyance system traverses through or near a proposed development and accommodates off-site drainage areas, any alterations to the existing system shall be made such that no increase in the existing water surface profile will be caused by the development.

1. An existing condition water surface profile shall be modeled based upon the natural channel, culverts, bridges, and other natural features through the property to be developed. Approved methods of analysis and required supporting documentation for existing condition modeling are outlined in the Ascension Parish Drainage Impact Study Procedure (Appendix VI Subdivision Code Section 8) document.
  2. A developed condition water surface profile shall be modeled based upon the proposed condition and shall account for all existing features to remain, the new channel geometry, proposed culverts or storm drain systems, and any fill placed within the over bank flow section in the existing channel sections. Approved methods of analysis and required supporting documentation for proposed condition modeling are outlined in the Ascension Parish Drainage Impact Study Procedure (Appendix VI Subdivision Code Section 8) document.
  3. The water surface profile elevation at the upstream and downstream property lines of the development during the peak runoff period for the sub-basin shall not be greater than the existing condition water surface profile elevation at those points. The Planning Director may allow for minimal increases in profile in cases where the development may be restricted from making improvements to lower the water surface profile.
  4. For major streams as defined by the Department of Public Works or the appropriate Drainage District, the Office of Planning & Development shall require the analysis to be based upon a higher storm frequency than the 25-year event, particularly when the difference between the 25-year and 100-year design water surface is potentially greater than 18".
- E. No individual, partnership, or corporation shall deepen, widen, fill, reroute, or change the location of any existing ditch, stream, drain, or drainage canal used for public drainage of off-site upstream or downstream areas without first obtaining a permit from the Ascension Parish Office of Planning & Development. The Office of Planning & Development will only issue said permit after written authorization from the Department of Public Works or the appropriate Drainage District. This provision does not apply to routine maintenance of existing drainage systems.  
(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-506.1 Development in the Floodplain**

- A. For developments that contain any areas of the 100-year Floodplain, this **Section 17-506.1** shall apply and any other relevant portions of Appendix V-Drainage.
1. The developer of a site shall apply for a permit from the Department of Planning and Development by submitting Plans for Mitigation or Statement of No Mitigation Required. These plans shall be signed and stamped by a Registered Professional Engineer for the State of Louisiana and be accompanied by all other required forms included in the permit package. Mitigation plans shall certify that the proposed Development will not diminish the storage volume of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

2. In general, excavation within the SFHA and below the BFE (and above normal pool elevation) is the only acceptable method of mitigation of fill placed below the BFE in the SFHA subsidies. Exact mitigation requirements can be found in Section 17-507.
3. The holder of the development permit cannot introduce fill to the site until an engineering certification is provided that indicates that all mitigation excavation has been completed or that fill is only placed as it is excavated (below the BFE and above normal pool elevation) from the mitigation area.
4. Prior to completion of the project and/or occupancy of a structure, the holder of the development permit must provide certification that plan in Section 17-506.1. A. 3, has been followed.

B When a regulatory floodway has not been designated, the floodplain administrator must require that no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within zones A1—30 and AE on the community's FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community. This certification shall be signed and stamped, by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Louisiana.

(DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-507. Placement of fill**

- A. A proposed Certificate of Elevation shall be submitted for any structure to be built or placed on any lot (including those designated as zones A1-30, AE, and X), prior to any permit being issued, which shall include, but not be limited to the following information:
  1. Address
  2. Contractor
  3. Proposed Elevation
  4. Firm Panel Number
  5. FIRM Zone base flood elevation or adjacent base flood elevation
  6. Elevation of the lowest adjacent grade.
  7. Explanation for how the elevation of the proposed structure is going to be achieved (fill, piers, chain-wall, etc.)
  8. Elevation of the top of the nearest sanitary sewer manhole, if applicable.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR13-11, 12/05/13; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

- B. For Individual Lots-
  1. Average fill of no more than 36” shall be placed in order to elevate any structure, driveway, or accessory building.
    - (a) For individual lots where fill is placed below the 100 Year Base Flood Elevation

- (i) Any volume of fill placed below the 100 Year Base Flood Elevation shall be compensated for and balanced by a hydraulically equivalent volume to a 100-year storm event. The certification of “Zero Net Fill” shall be submitted by an Engineer licensed by the State of Louisiana.
    - (ii) This fill must be from the same property or the same watershed provided a permanent easement is obtained from the property owner where the mitigated fill is obtained, and it must be mitigated by a hydraulically equivalent volume to a 100-year storm event. The certification of “Zero Net Fill” shall be submitted by an Engineer licensed by the State of Louisiana.
    - (iii) Fill shall be limited to the foundation of the structure(s) and shall not extend more than 24” horizontally beyond the limits of the foundation before it begins to slope.
    - (iv) If the structure(s) must be elevated beyond the capacity to mitigate, piers or a chain-wall shall be utilized to comply with the elevation requirements. However, all fill shall be subject to the mitigation requirements as outlined above.
      - (I) The homeowner may choose to combine fill and piers or a chain-wall to achieve the desired elevation, however, in no instance shall the fill height be greater than 36”.
  - 2. Side slope of fill under the structure(s) shall not be steeper than a 3’ horizontal to a 1’ vertical slope.
  - 3. Fill shall not be placed closer than ten (10’) feet to any property line in order to facilitate the collection and transportation of any increased runoff via side-yard or rear-yard swales if necessary
  - 4. Compaction tests shall be required when the footer of the proposed structure does not extend at least 12” into undisturbed soil. Compaction test requirements
    - (i) There shall be 1 compaction test per 12” lift per 1,000 square feet of fill.
    - (ii) The fill shall meet one of the following standards:
      - 1. 90% modified proctor
      - 2. 95% standard proctor
- C. For major and minor subdivisions, large-scale developments, townhouse subdivisions, condominiums and PUDS.
- 1. Average fill of no more than 36” shall be placed in order to elevate any structure, driveway, parking area, or accessory building. Any volume of fill placed below the Base Flood Elevation shall be mitigated to a hydraulically equivalent volume as would be necessary to offset a 100-year storm event. No offsite mitigation shall be allowed to achieve the necessary freeboard as required by this section. The certification of “Zero Net Fill” shall be submitted by an Engineer licensed by the State of Louisiana.
  - 2. Compaction tests shall be required in the areas where structures are to be placed.
    - (a) Compaction test requirements



- (i) There shall be 1 compaction test per 12” lift per 10% of the total number of lots in the proposed subdivision. Refer to the Ascension Parish Subdivision Construction Specifications, Section 1, Paragraph 3.3 ‘Compaction and Fill’.
- 3. Fill shall not be placed closer than (10’) feet to any perimeter property line.
- 4. Side slope of fill under the structure(s) shall not be steeper than a 3’ horizontal to a 1’vertical slope.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR13-11, 12/05/13; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

D. For Commercial Lot Development

- 1. Average fill of no more than 36” shall be placed in order to elevate any structure or parking area. Any volume of fill placed below the 100-year Base Flood Elevation shall be compensated for and balanced by a hydraulically equivalent volume of excavation taken from below the Base Flood Elevation and above the normal pool water level for a 100-year storm event.
- 2. Compaction tests shall be required in the areas where structures are to be placed.
  - (a) Compaction test requirements
    - (i) There shall be 1 compaction test per 12” lift per 1,000 square feet of fill.
    - (ii) The fill shall meet one of the following standards:
      - 1. 90% modified proctor
      - 2. 95% standard proctor
- 3. Fill shall not be placed closer than (10’) feet from any property line for individual commercial lots
- 4. Fill shall not be placed closer than (10’) feet from any perimeter property line for major and minor commercial subdivisions
- 5. Side slope of fill under the structure(s) and parking lots shall not be steeper than a 3’ horizontal to a 1’vertical slope.

E. For Open Channels/Ditches

- 1. Fill shall not be placed in areas which will impede the natural floodplain of open channels/ditches.
- 2. Unless approved for channel/ditch relocation and/or servitude revocation according to Parish ordinances, the following limits shall be applied to named or open channels/ditches within the Parish:
  - (a) Fill shall not be placed within (10’) feet of the top bank of channels with a top width greater than (10’) feet
  - (b) Fill shall not be placed within (15’) feet of the top bank of channels with a top width greater than (20’) feet
  - (c) Fill shall not be placed within (20’) feet of the top bank of channels with a top width greater than (30’) feet
  - (d) Fill shall not be placed within (25’) feet of the top bank of channels with a top width greater than (40’) feet

- F. If after construction, it is determined through an on-site investigation by a Parish Drainage Engineer that an adjacent property owner is experiencing an increase in

off-site runoff due to the construction, then the property owner will be required by the Ascension Parish Engineering Department to construct a swale sufficient enough in size as stated by the Parish Drainage Engineer to collect and convey the runoff away from the impacted property.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR13-11, 12/05/13; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

- G. The determining criteria for land subject to the requirements of 100-Year Flood Plain Restrictions:
1. All land below the Base Flood Elevation as determined by actual on-the-ground contours prior to any fill being placed on-site, referenced to the official Parish benchmark system, regardless of whether the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) depict the property in question to be in a recognized flood zone.
  2. Where lakes are excavated, the volume of dirt removed below the normal pool water level of the lake cannot be credited as compensatory storage.
  3. Compensatory storage excavations must have an equivalent hydraulic conveyance to the floodplain as the area being filled. Compensatory storage that is hydraulically disconnected from the watershed will not be credited towards fill mitigation.
  4. If the compensating storage is derived from an off-site source (not applicable to **17-507. C**) that is not a part of the proposed development it must be located in the same watershed as the proposed development and the base flood elevation at the off-site source shall not be greater than one (1) foot higher than or one (1) foot lower than the base flood elevation of the developed site.
  5. Excess storage credits may be created by a development and utilized by another development if it meets the criteria of **Section 17-507. G**. If excess credits are created by a development, the Office of Planning & Development shall issue a credit letter that may be utilized by another project in the same watershed within five (5) years of the issuance of the letter.
- H. Average Fill (as defined by this ordinance) of no more than 36” shall be allowed to meet elevation requirements. However, at no point within the site will a fill height of greater than 48” be allowed. Fill required to bring natural or previously man-made ponds, ditches or depressions back to the surrounding top of bank grade shall not count towards this average. However, this fill shall be accounted for in the required mitigation calculations.
- I. Waivers to **Section 17-507** due to a property owner’s inability to mitigate fill, generate fill credits, or follow site design limits may be made on a case- by-case basis as recommended by the Engineering Review Agency and approved by the Director of the Department of Planning & Development and the appropriate Gravity Drainage District. Waivers must be based on technical merit.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR13-11, 12/05/13; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-508. Storm Water Detention Design Requirements**

- A. The engineering design of detention facilities shall properly account for the backwater condition of the receiving stream at the same time increment that the detention system is discharging into the receiving stream. Detailed criteria and requirements shall be followed as required. in the Drainage Impact Study Procedure to demonstrate proper control of the peak discharge from the subject site.
- B. The outfall for storm water detention facilities shall be gravity driven. Mechanical systems, such as pumps, shall not be used for discharging flow from detention ponds.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR11-04, 8/4/11; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-509. Erosion/Sediment Control and Bank Stability**

- A. An Erosion/Sedimentation Control (ESC) Plan shall be developed by the Engineer and submitted for approval to address potential sediment migration from the project site during construction activities. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to maintain drainage ditches and detention ponds and to provide adequate bank stability and erosion protection until the site is fully stabilized.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR11-05, 7/21/11)

- B. As per LPDES requirements, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be developed for all sites that disturb greater than 1 acre. This plan will be submitted to the Engineering Department of Ascension Parish prior the beginning of construction at the site. All of these sites will be covered under general permit LAR100000 or LAR200000. The applicant shall contact LDEQ for specific requirements for each permit. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to fulfill and maintain the requirements of the permit.
- C. The LPDES permit for small construction activities (LAR200000) requires a Small Construction Activity Completion Report (SCACR) be submitted within sixty (60) days after completion of covered activities, a copy of this report shall be submitted to the Parish at the same time. The LPDES permit for construction activities larger than 5 acres (LAR100000) requires a Notice of Termination (NOT) be submitted after the site has been finally stabilized, a copy of this NOT shall be submitted to the Parish at the same time.
- D. The LPDES permits (LAR 100000 & LAR 200000) require inspection reports be done on all construction projects that disturb greater than 1 acre at a frequency noted in the project SWPPP. These inspection reports shall be submitted to the Ascension Parish Storm Water Department at the frequency noted in the project SWPPP from the start of construction activities regulated under the LPDEA permits until final stabilization.
- E. The following shall be considered as maximum slopes that provide adequate bank stability and erosion protection:

1. Major streams: Maximum slope shall be 3:1 (horizontal to vertical). If the slopes are concrete lined, a slope of 1.5:1 may be utilized.
  2. Storm Water detention ponds: Maximum side slope shall be 3:1 (horizontal to vertical) to a minimum of two feet below the normal pool water level. Sides slopes more than two feet below the normal pool water level may be established at slopes greater than 3:1 (up to a maximum 1.5:1) with written certification by a licensed Geotechnical Engineer stating that the side slopes will be permanently stable at the design slope.
  3. Open Ditches: Maximum slope shall be 3:1 (horizontal to vertical).
- F. Where a ditch discharges into an outfall channel, the proposed ditch shall be enclosed in a properly sized pipe approved by the Department of Public Works under the maintenance access strip of the outfall channel.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR11-05, 7/21/11; DR14-01, 4/23/14; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-5010. Construction Standards**

- A. All drainage and earthwork construction shall be constructed in accordance with the Ascension Parish Subdivision Regulations. All temporary culverts require a permit and written approval by the Department of Public Works and/or appropriate Drainage District.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09, SR 17-01, 6/15/17)

**17-5011. Servitude and Right of Way Requirements**

Reserved for future expansion

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; SR12-17, 2/7/13)

**17-5012. Storm Water Conveyance Systems**

- A. The following criteria and requirements shall apply to all proposed storm water conveyance systems:
1. Open ditches: Existing open ditches may be utilized to convey offsite water through a proposed development or to convey water from a subsurface collection system to its ultimate outfall or detention area. No new open ditches shall be allowed within a proposed development.
  2. Subsurface storm water systems shall be utilized to collect runoff from proposed roadways and the front/rear of lots for conveyance to an outfall ditch or detention pond. Swales used to direct stormwater to drainage inlets shall have side slopes not exceeding 5:1.

3. Subsurface systems installed to convey off-site water require proper analysis be performed in accordance with **Section 17-506** to ensure that no negative impact is caused to adjoining property owners.
4. For all new developments, effluent from individual sanitary sewer treatment systems must ultimately outfall into an enclosed storm drainage system if such storm drainage system abuts the subject site.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09)

### **17-5013. Design Criteria**

- A. Storm drainage design, shall utilize 10, 25, and 100-year rainfalls of 7.8, 9.6 and 12.6 inches of rainfall respectively in 24 hours as determined by NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 9, Version 2, by the National Weather Service. The 25-year storm shall be used to design drainage features and stormwater detention for proposed developments. The resulting post-development outflow from proposed development sites for the 25-year storm shall be limited to the outflow that would occur for the 10-year 24-hour duration storm and pre-development conditions.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR19-03, 1/3/19; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

- B. Drainage Impact Studies shall:
  1. Be prepared in accordance with the latest revision of the Drainage Impact Study Procedure (Appendix VI Subdivision Code Section 8), as established by the Ascension Parish Planning Commission.
  2. If no development has begun within twenty-four (24) months following the acceptance of the drainage impact study by the Ascension Parish Office of Planning and Development, the owner, subdivider and/or developer shall resubmit a new Drainage Impact Study for review.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR15-01, 9/3/15; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

- C. All drainage impact studies, construction plans, and final drainage calculations for residential subdivisions and commercial developments submitted to the Office of Planning & Development shall be performed under the direction of and sealed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice Civil Engineering in the State of Louisiana. Exceptions will be considered by the Planning Director for cases showing a clear reduction in total impervious area and no modifications to existing drainage elements.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09)

- D. Upon completion of the project, the design engineer for the project is required to submit a signed and sealed Letter of Certification that states that the project was completed in accordance with the construction plans that were submitted, reviewed and approved by the Parish of Ascension. Final approval will not be granted until this letter has been received.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 716/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR15-09, 12/3/15)

- E. The Parish Floodplain Administrator shall require a flood elevation certificate from a Professional Land Surveyor or Professional Engineer for residential and commercial structures.
- F. Interior subsurface stormwater system conveyance may be designed based upon the ten-year storm event

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-5014. Drainage Servitudes**

- A. Drainage servitudes are dedicated to the Parish for the exclusive purpose of maintaining adequate storm water drainage. Any encroachment within such servitudes that may inhibit this purpose presently, or in the future, as determined by the Department of Public Works and/or the appropriate Drainage District is prohibited.
- B. The removal of such encroachments shall be the responsibility of the landowner, and shall be accomplished no later than ten (10) days from the date of notice by the Department of Public Works and/or the appropriate Drainage District.
- C. The landowner shall be assessed a penalty of \$100.00 per day thereafter until the encroachment is removed and verified by the Department of Public Works and/or the appropriate Drainage District.
- D. When imminent flooding or damage from storm events are possible, as determined by the Department of Public Works and/or the appropriate Drainage District, Parish forces shall have the right to enter the property and remove the encroachment. The property owner shall be assessed all costs incurred in the removal of the encroachment.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09)

**17-5090. Administration and Enforcement**

**17-5091. Variances**

- A. Any request for deviation from the requirements and policies outlined within the Ascension Parish Drainage Ordinance must be made in writing by the applicant. Written request shall include supporting documentation necessary to prove basis warranting a variance based on technical merit. The request for a variance must be specific, and addressed to the attention of the Planning & Development Director. A variance will be granted only upon the written approval of the appropriate Drainage District Director, the Director of Public Works, and the Office of Planning & Development.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-5092. Fines and Enforcements**

- A. Any person who violates any element of a Parish required permit or Parish regulations, or any supporting part thereof (e.g. Construction Plans, Drainage Impact Study, Erosion/Sedimentation Control Plan) or federal and state regulations (see section 17-504) including violations to the SWPPP will be issued a written warning. If the violation is not corrected in the time allotted by the written warning the project will be issued a stop work order by the Engineering department or the Department of Public Works.
- B. If the above violations are not corrected within the time allotted by the stop work order (two working days minimum), all permits shall be rescinded by written notice from the Parish. A stop work order does not alleviate responsibility for any violations and shall not indemnify the permit holder against additional enforcement actions as allowed by local, state and federal laws.
- C. If the above violations are not corrected within five working days of the permits being rescinded, the responsible party will be subject to fines, in addition to any fines leveled by Federal and State regulators. The fine shall be \$500.00 for each violation. Each specific infraction shall constitute a separate violation. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. Fines may be enforced from the date of initial warning of violation(s).
- D. All fines and penalties shall be paid to the governing body of Ascension Parish, Louisiana.

**17-5093. Long Term Accountability of Mitigation Facilities**

- A. An inspection for compliance with design shall be performed every five years on all privately-owned storm water and floodplain mitigation facilities approved under this ordinance and a letter of certification of compliance with design shall be submitted by an Engineer licensed by the State of Louisiana.
- B. Long term accountability of existing mitigation facilities shall be determined within 120 days of adoption of this ordinance and presented to the council for approval.

(Ord.# DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-5094. Implementation of September 2019 Changes**

- A. Because of major changes instituted by the Ascension Parish Council in their meeting of September 5, 2019, the application of these changes shall be implemented per below:
- B. After adoption of ordinance there shall be a sixty (60) day period for applicants under the individual lots (Section 17-507.B) to apply for permits under the previous ordinance. This will require evidence that the applicant has commissioned or completed design or other similar work prior to adoption of the Ordinance.

- C. All developments which obtained Preliminary Plat approval and all developments with an accepted Preliminary Plat submittal in accordance with 17-405 of Appendix IV-Subdivision Regulations at the time this ordinance was adopted will be under the previous ordinance.
- D. After adoption the Administration shall draft permitting requirements to facilitate implementation of these revisions. Administration shall also submit, for Council approval, the Permit Fees required for implementation of this ordinance.

(Ord.# DR19-05, 9/5/19)

**17-50100. Definitions**

- A. Note: *Unless* specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this ordinance the most reasonable application.

**Accessory Building:** A non-habitable structure such as a carport, shed, barn, pool house, recreational vehicle storage shed, or other outbuildings constructed by a homeowner for his or her personal use, and not for commercial or business purposes.

**Average Fill:** The total volume of fill placed on site divided by the total area of the placement.

**Backwater:** Additional waters in a flooding condition where the increased flooding is induced by downstream flow obstructions such as structures, channel conditions, and elevated water downstream.

**Base Flood Elevation (BFE), i.e. 100 Year Floodplain:** The flood elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map for Zones A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, AH, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/A1-A30, V, VE or V1-V30 that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a one percent chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year

**Base Flood Elevation-2:** The anticipated height, in relation to the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988, or other datum where specified, of floodwaters of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.

**Channel:** means any stream, swale, ditch, diversion, or watercourse that conveys stormwater runoff, whether natural or manmade

**Compensatory Storage:** An equivalent volume of storage used to mitigate for the loss of natural flood storage capacity due to the placement of fill within flood prone areas

**Conveyance:** Natural or man-made system accommodating flow of storm water

**Detention:** the temporary storage of stormwater runoff in a stormwater facility, such that the release of runoff from the site is at a slower rate than is collected by the stormwater system

**Detention System:** All facilities, channels, basins, and areas, natural or artificial, which serve to store storm water and release it at a controlled rate

**Developed Condition:** Means the fully developed or built out condition with respect to stormwater runoff from a proposed development or residential site plan



**Drainage Impact Study:** A report prepared for a designated area supporting the design decisions made to meet all requirements on drainage provisions, flood mitigation measures and performance monitoring tasks which may be placed on, or located throughout such area. The Parish “*Drainage Impact Study Policy*” establishes the minimum submittal requirements for a Drainage Impact Study to initiate review by the Office of Planning & Development as part of the permitting process.

**Earthwork:** The excavation and/or embankment of soil

**Equivalent Hydraulic Conveyance:** Flow capacity between two locations that mitigates for the loss of flow capacity at another location

**Existing Condition:** The pre-developed condition of the site with respect to hydrology and hydraulics. Credit will not be given for impervious surface area constructed in the previous 5-year period for a site being redeveloped.

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM):** Official map for a community in which FEMA has delineated both the special hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to that community

**Flood Zone:** A geographical area where flooding reaches a certain height as shown on a Flood Hazard Boundary Map or a Flood Insurance Rate Map that reflects a severity or type of flooding in an area

**Heavy Industrial:** Intended to accommodate high-impact manufacturing, compounding, processing, packaging, treatment and other industrial uses, including extractive and waste-related uses, that by their nature create a nuisance, and which are not properly associated with or are compatible with nearby residential or commercial neighborhoods.

**Hydraulically Connected:** Two surface water sources within the same watershed whose storage is directly impacted by the other

**Impervious Surface:** Any surface where the infiltration of storm water into the earth has been reduced by the works of man.

**Industrial Facility:** Any development within an Industrially zoned (I) piece of property that is classified as a Heavy Industrial Use.

**Light Industrial:** Intended to accommodate light manufacturing, research and development, warehousing, wholesale and processing uses. Light industrial is intended to encourage originality and flexibility in design to ensure that the development is properly related to its site and buffered to surrounding land uses. Development should be operated in a relatively clean and quiet manner in accordance with applicable noise ordinance regulations (Chapter 14, Article III of the Code of Ordinances) and should not be obnoxious to nearby residential or commercial uses. Uses shall create little or no environmental or safety problems.

**Lowest Adjacent Grade:** The lowest point of the ground level immediately next to the earthen building pad formed by the placement of fill.

**Lowest Floor:** The lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including a basement). An unfinished or flood-resistant enclosure, used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of other requirements.

**Lowest Gutter Elevation:** The lowest elevation of the road at the gutter.

**Normal Pool Water Level:** the average level of water within a detention system or mitigation facility under normal, pre-storm conditions

**Peak Flow:** The maximum volumetric rate of flow of water at any given point in a channel or conduit resulting from a predetermined storm.

**Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA):** Areas within the SFHA are designated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map as Zones A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, AH, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/A1-A30, V, VE or V1-V30 that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a one percent chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year. (2) A Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is an area identified by the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an area with a special flood or mudflow, and/or flood related erosion hazard, as shown on a flood hazard boundary map or flood insurance rate map.

**Storm Frequency:** The average period of time during which a storm of a given duration and intensity can be expected to be equaled or exceeded.

**Peak Water Surface Elevation:** The highest design water surface elevation for the design storm in a detention pond or storm drainage system.

**Watershed:** The total land area above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point.

**Zero Net Fill:** Any volume of fill placed below the 100-year Base Flood Elevation shall be compensated for and balanced by a hydraulically equivalent volume of excavation taken from below the Base Flood Elevation and above the normal pool water level.

(Ord.# DR07-01, 9/6/07; DR09-01, 7/16/09; DC09-09, 12/17/09; DR19-05, 9/5/19)