

**General Construction Standards
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Chapter 5 General Construction Standards

5.1 Applicability

Standards contained in this Chapter shall be applicable to all construction projects, private or public, undertaken in the City of Harrisonburg.

5.2 Solid Waste

(5.2.1) Construction Debris

Construction debris including excess excavating material, scrap wood, bricks, etc. shall be disposed of by the developer or his contractor in accordance with the requirements of the Harrisonburg City Code and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Owner, Developer or Contractor to dispose of all construction debris, and additionally, it shall be the sole responsibility of the same to recycle appropriate materials and debris.

(5.2.2) Disposal Plan

Any person, partnership or corporation proposing to dispose of such construction debris within the City shall first submit a plan for such disposal to the Director of Public Works or designee. The plan shall show the proposed disposal site together with sufficient topography and erosion control information to properly evaluate the adequacy of the disposal site and the plans therefore.

(5.2.3) Approval of Disposal Plan

Upon receipt of the plan for disposal of construction debris, the Director of Public Works or designee will review the plan for compliance with applicable ordinances, statutes and regulations. Neither the developer, the contractor nor an agent thereof shall be permitted to dispose of construction debris within the City prior to the approval of said plan.

(5.2.4) Flood Plain Restriction

It shall be unlawful to dispose of any construction debris within a flood-prone area set out in the City's Flood Boundary-Floodway Maps (FBFM), except as set out in the city's Flood Plain Ordinance.

5.3 Cleanliness

All construction sites shall be kept clean and free of excess debris so as not to create a public nuisance.

5.4 Erosion and Sediment Control

(5.4.1) Installation and Maintenance

(5.4.1.1) Installation and maintenance of all erosion and sediment control measures shall be in strict accordance with the criteria in the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, latest edition, as published by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, unless otherwise shown on the approved plans.

(5.4.1.2) Requests for installation of additional erosion control facilities or for maintenance of in-place facilities shall be acted upon within two working days of the initial request. Such request shall be made by the City Erosion and Sediment Control Administrator or his duly authorized agents.

(5.4.1.3) Failure of the permit holder to act on such a request will prompt further enforcement action by the City Erosion and Sediment Control Administrator or the Administrator's authorized agent(s).

(5.4.2) Enforcement

(5.4.2.1) Enforcement of the City's Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance and of the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law will be duly performed in strict accordance with the criteria established within those documents.

(5.4.2.2) Failure to comply with any enforcement directive issued by the City will subject the owner and/or permittee to civil and/or criminal penalties in accordance with the City law.

5.5 Damage to Existing Facilities

Any public facilities damaged during construction shall be immediately repaired to the satisfaction of City Inspectors. Such repair shall be performed at the sole cost of the developer or his agent.

5.6 Work in Public Right-of-Way

(5.6.1) Public Access Permit General Conditions

Any person, partnership or corporation wishing to repair, modify, install or construct any facility including, but not limited to, entrances, utilities, new street connections and the like, within the right-of-way of any City street, whether or not such street is constructed, shall first obtain a Public Access Permit from the Department of Community Development. The applicant for such permit shall, prior to the issuance of the permit, submit a site plan conforming to the requirements of the City Engineer.

The permit application process applies to all and any planned work of any party that is of a non-emergency nature.

Installation of any utility in existing street shall comply with Drawing 1A, Page 21A, Chapter 7 of this Manual, and further the City Trench Restoration Standards (section 5.6.5 of this Manual).

(5.6.2) Traffic Control Devices

Any person, partnership or corporation desiring to do work of any kind within the right-of-way of any City street shall first erect traffic control devices conforming to the requirements of the Virginia Supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Streets and Highways. Such devices and the location thereof shall be designated on a traffic control plan included with the site plan prior to the plan approval or issuance of a Public Access Permit.

(5.6.3) VDOT Traffic Control Requirements

All traffic control persons shall be certified in accordance with the VDOT program, and are required to follow all procedural guidelines.

(5.6.4) Construction Entrances

At least one construction entrance shall be constructed and maintained at all construction sites in accordance with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook. Mud, dirt and other construction debris carried onto and spilled or deposited on any City street shall be immediately removed by the contractor. Under no circumstances shall such materials remain on the street after the day's normal working hours.

(5.6.5) Trench Restoration Standards

(5.6.5.1) Open cuts will be allowed on streets that have not been paved for over 5 years. Refer to Chapter 7, Drawing 1A for street repair requirements.

(5.6.5.2) For streets which have been paved within the previous 5 years, open cuts will be allowed if the owner, developer, contractor or other person mills and paves within 100 feet of each side of cut. Encroachment into any portion of a traffic lane shall require milling and paving of the full width of the lane.

(5.6.5.4) All work shall be performed prior to the release of bond or future permits issued.

5.7 Blasting

All blasting operations, including storage of explosives, must be permitted through the City Fire Department, prior to commencing. All blasting operations, including storage, shall be performed in accordance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code.

5.8 Emergency Access/Site Protection

(5.8.1) Access Roads

All construction sites shall have, prior to the placement of any combustible materials or erection of any structure, a minimum twenty (20) feet wide all-weather access road, located and constructed in accordance with City Fire Department requirements. Such road shall be accessible to emergency vehicles at all times during construction.

(5.8.2) Fire Protection

Major construction sites, at the discretion of the City Fire Chief, shall be provided with adequate fire protection water, of a temporary and/or permanent nature, prior to the placement of any combustible materials or the erection of any structure on the site. Adequacy of such fire protection shall be determined by the City Fire Chief during the site plan review process. Temporary or private installations thus required shall be bonded along with other public facilities prior to issuance of a land-disturbing permit.

(5.8.3) Utility Protection

All gas meters, electric transformers, or other similar utility installations that are located in areas subject to vehicular traffic shall be provided with vehicle protection barriers.

(5.8.4) Street Signs

Permanent or temporary street signs shall be installed on new streets before construction begins on any structure on that street.

5.9 Materials Certification

Certification for all materials used in constructing public facilities shall be provided to the City's on-site inspector, and shall be approved by the inspector prior to installation.

All materials must comply with City's Quality Assurance Program. Please see City inspector for the Materials Certification Checklist.

5.10 Authority of City Inspectors

City inspectors shall have full authority to:

- reject fill or backfill soils for use
- require subgrade undercutting or rock undercut
- require subgrade stabilization
- require subdrainage facilities
- require laying back of unstable slopes
- require proofrolling of roadway subgrade
- require removal of unsuitable materials
- require other geotechnical-related provisions as necessary to ensure proper road and utility construction

In the event of a dispute between City inspector and the contractor/owner, the City Engineer shall make a decision regarding additional construction requirements. Should the contractor/owner not agree with the City Engineer's recommendation, they may provide, at their expense, a recommendation from a licensed, experienced Geotechnical Engineer on how to address the particular situation. Such engineer shall be independently procured and shall not be employed by the company who prepared the original plans. It is anticipated that the City Engineer will respect the recommendation of the Geotechnical Engineer. Failure to comply with City directives will result in non-acceptance of the facility.