



# **BMP Performance Webcast**

*February 6, 2008*

**With:**

**Jonathan Jones, Wright Water Engineers**

**Neely Law, Center for Watershed Protection**

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# Topics for Today's Discussion

- **The Basics of BMP performance**
  - National Pollutant Removal Database (CWP)
  - International BMP Database (WERF)
- **Introduction to new EPA tool/website**
- **Other Important Factors for BMP Selection**
- **Comparison of (a few) BMP types**
- **Using BMP performance information in your stormwater program**





# International BMP Database

www.bmpdatabase.org



**INTERNATIONAL STORMWATER BMP DATABASE**  
www.bmpdatabase.org

Site Map   Contacts   Policies   Disclaimer

**Project Sponsors**   Home   **BMP Performance Summaries**   Retrieve BMP Studies   Research Tools/Master Database   Data Entry Spreadsheets   Monitoring/Evaluation   Publications








**Project Team**



Welcome to the International Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Database project website, which features a database of over 300 BMP studies, performance analysis results, tools for use in BMP performance studies, monitoring guidance and other study-related publications. The overall purpose of the project is to provide scientifically sound information to improve the design, selection and performance of BMPs. Continued population of the database and assessment of its data will ultimately lead to a better understanding of factors influencing BMP performance and help to promote improvements in BMP design, selection and implementation.

The project, which began in 1996 under a cooperative agreement between the [American Society of Civil Engineers \(ASCE\)](#) and the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(USEPA\)](#), now has support and funding from a broad coalition of partners including the [Water Environment Research Foundation \(WERF\)](#), [ASCE Environmental and Water Resources Institute \(EWRI\)](#), USEPA, [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#) and the [American Public Works Association \(APWA\)](#), [Wright Water Engineers, Inc.](#) and [Geosyntec Consultants](#) are the entities maintaining and operating the database clearinghouse and web page, answering questions, conducting analyses of newly submitted BMP data, conducting updated performance evaluations of the overall data set, disseminating project findings, and expanding the database to include other approaches such as Low Impact Development techniques. The database itself is downloadable to any individual or organization that would like to conduct its own assessments.

**What Type of User Are You?** Let us help you enter our website to find the level of detail you need:

<p><b>Low-Intensity</b></p> <p>Get Basic Performance Summary Information for BMPs</p> <p>Typical Users: Public officials, casual users, those seeking quick/fast answers</p>	<p><b>Mid-Intensity</b></p> <p>Get Detailed Statistical Analysis for Individual BMPs</p> <p>Typical Users: Consultants, Public Works Staff, Designers</p>	<p><b>Researcher</b></p> <p>Download the Master Database to Conduct Independent Research</p> <p>Typical Users: University Professors</p>	<p><b>Data Provider</b></p> <p>Obtain Data Entry Spreadsheets</p> <p>Typical Users: Public agencies, consulting firms, university researchers</p>	<p><b>New to BMP Monitoring</b></p> <p>Obtain Monitoring Guidance</p> <p>Typical Users: Public agencies, consulting firms, university researchers</p>
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**What's New**

2007 Data Analysis Report released in October 2007

Website revised with new, ease-to-use performance summary information

Master Database exceeds 300 BMP studies with access to a new bibliography

Florida Department of Environmental Protection BMP Database Integrated into International Stormwater BMP Database--searchable online

**Jonathan Jones, PE – D.WRE.**

**Wright Water Engineers**

**Co-Project Team Leader for International BMP Database**





# Features of the International BMP Database

- Key resource for researchers
- Information on 300+ studies
- Summaries of BMP Performance
- Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance
- Publications and Papers
- Statistical abstracts for many studies

[www.bmpdatabase.org](http://www.bmpdatabase.org)



# National Pollutant Removal Performance Database

[www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org)

**Neely Law, PhD**  
**Senior Research Analyst**  
**Center for Watershed Protection**



## National Pollutant Removal Performance Database

Version 3

September, 2007

**CENTER FOR  
WATERSHED  
PROTECTION**

8390 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Elliott City, MD 21043  
410.464.8323  
FAX 410.464.8324  
[www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org)  
[www.stormwatercenter.net](http://www.stormwatercenter.net)

The National Pollutant Removal Performance Database v. 2 was recently updated to include an additional 27 studies published through 2006. The updated database was statistically analyzed to derive the median and quartile removal values for each major group of stormwater BMPs. The data are presented as box and whisker plots for the various pollutants found in stormwater runoff.



# National Pollutant Removal Performance Database

- Project started in 2000
- Updated recently (NPRPD v.3, 2007)
- Now includes 166 studies published through 2006
- Visual summary of BMP performance, guidance on the use of BMP performance data
- Will continue to update and improve

[www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org)

Download report at:

<http://www.cwp.org/PublicationStore/special.htm>  
(free)



# Who Needs BMP Information?



**Clearly someone needs BMP information! The design drawings showed the location of the straw bales as a “dashed” line... hum...**



# Who Needs Information on BMP Performance?

- **Developers are building housing developments, big box stores, malls, industrial parks, etc. Are the stormwater controls adequate?**
- **6000 MS4s are making decisions and approving plans for post-construction BMPs**
- **Permit writers, TMDL staff, watershed planners, etc are attempting to address stormwater impacts to meet water quality standards**





# The Basics of BMP Performance

## ■ Understanding BMP Performance

- Factors influencing performance
- Key terminology
- Pollutant removal
  - Why “percent removal” is not a good indicator
- The importance of volume reduction
  - Impact on stream systems
  - Relationship to pollutant removal

# Factors Influencing BMP Performance

- **BMPs are not static systems that deliver constant or even “predictable” results**
- **Performance is highly variable and impacted by:**
  - **Design**
  - **Soil type**
  - **Rainfall patterns**
  - **Land uses in the drainage area**
  - **Age of system**
  - **etc.**

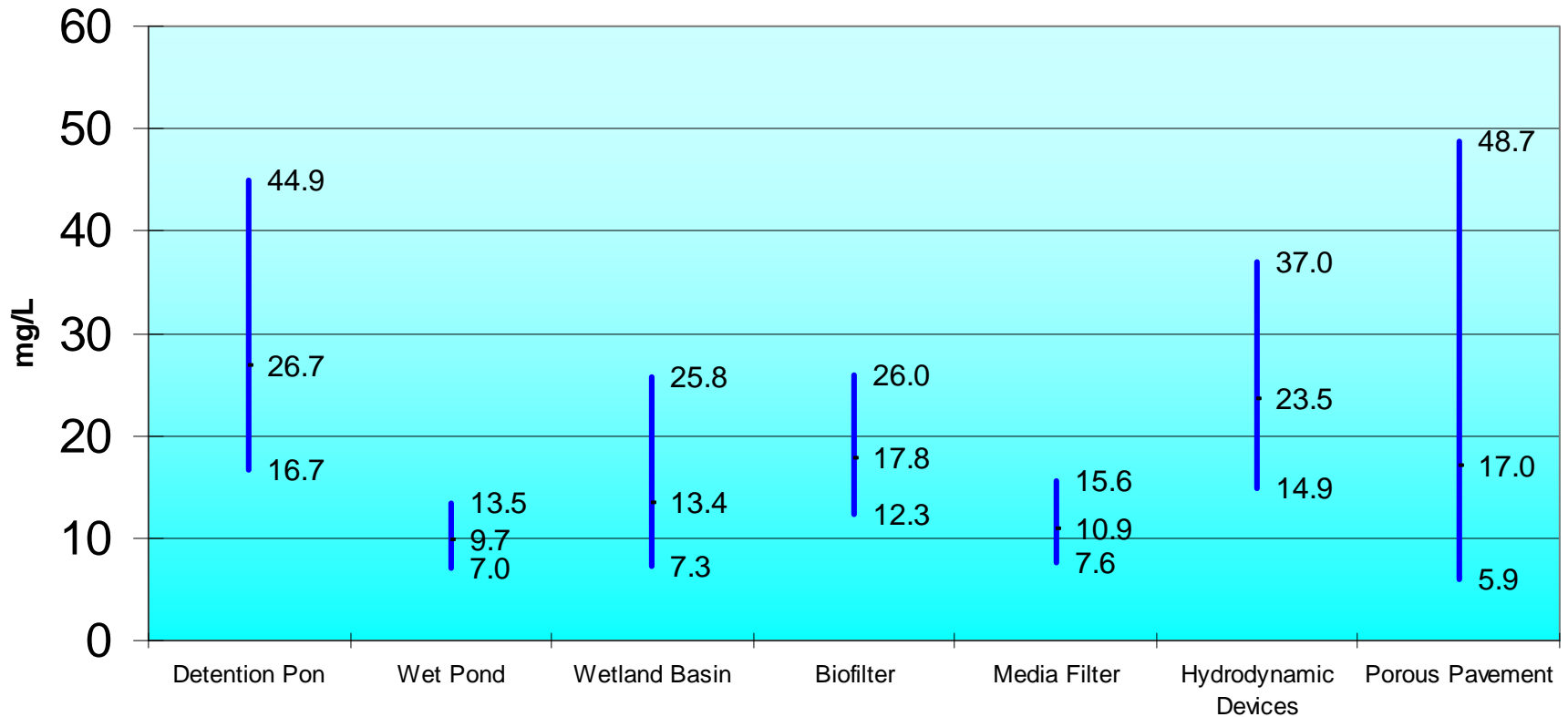




# BMP Performance is Variable

## Variability in Removal of TSS

(median and 95% confidence intervals)



Source: International BMP Database



# Terminology

- ***Concentration*** – influent and effluent concentrations usually expressed as mg/L or ug/L
- ***Percent Removal*** – using an influent and effluent concentration to obtain a simple percentage  
**\*\*\*\* Not Recommended!** (more on that later)
- ***Volume*** – in liters coming into (influent) and out of (effluent) a BMP. Measurements can be conducted in different ways. We report “paired” values





# Terminology

- **Total Load** – a calculation of the amount of a pollutant by weight (e.g. kg or pounds) coming into and out of a BMP during a storm event or series of events
  - Better overall measure than just concentration
  - More on that in a minute...



# Terminology

## ■ Event Mean Concentration (EMC)

- Defined as the total pollutant load in a runoff event divided by the volume of that event
- Generally very difficult to measure, so it is estimated by using flow weighted automatic sampling
- Units are milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

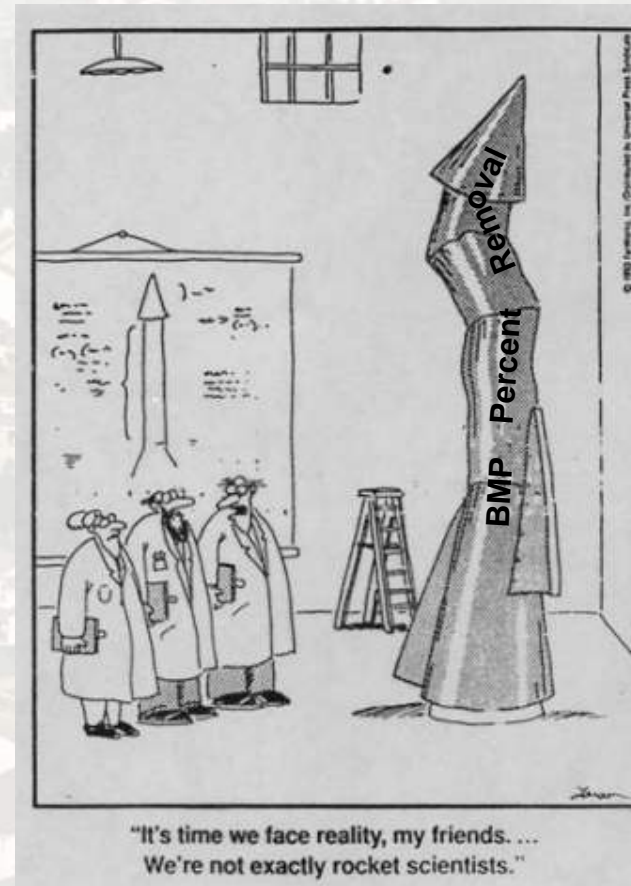
## ■ Confidence Intervals and Quartiles

- Statistical measures that can be used to assess the variability of the samples or observations in a data set
- Examples are the 95% confidence interval or 75% quartile



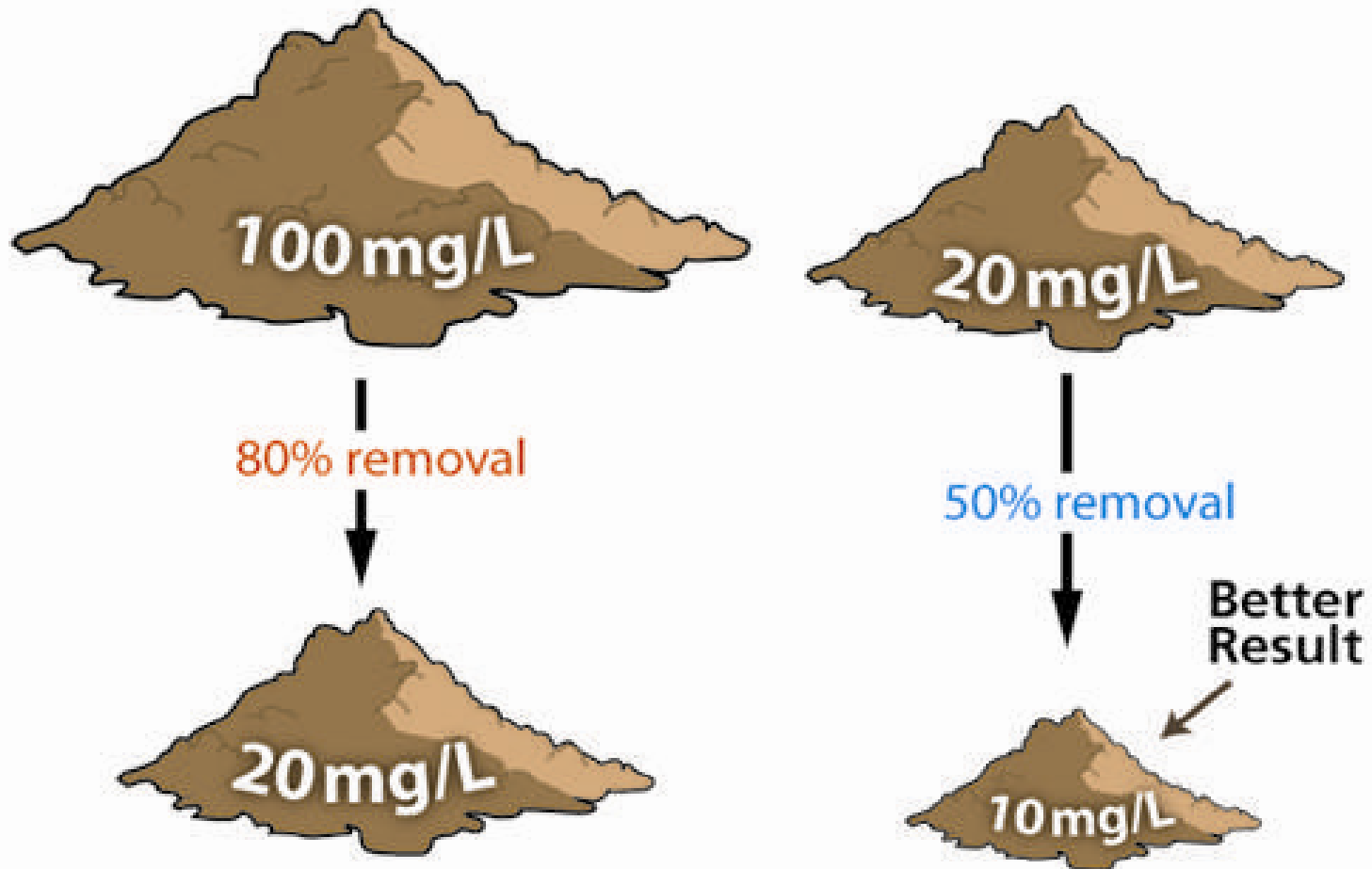
# Urban Myth: Percent Removal

- Calculations of percent removal are common in the stormwater world
  - Myth #1. EPA/CWA requires 80% removal for stormwater. **No!**
  - Myth #2. Percent removal is a good way to demonstrate BMP performance. **No!**
- Percent removal can be very misleading...



# Percent Removal is Misleading

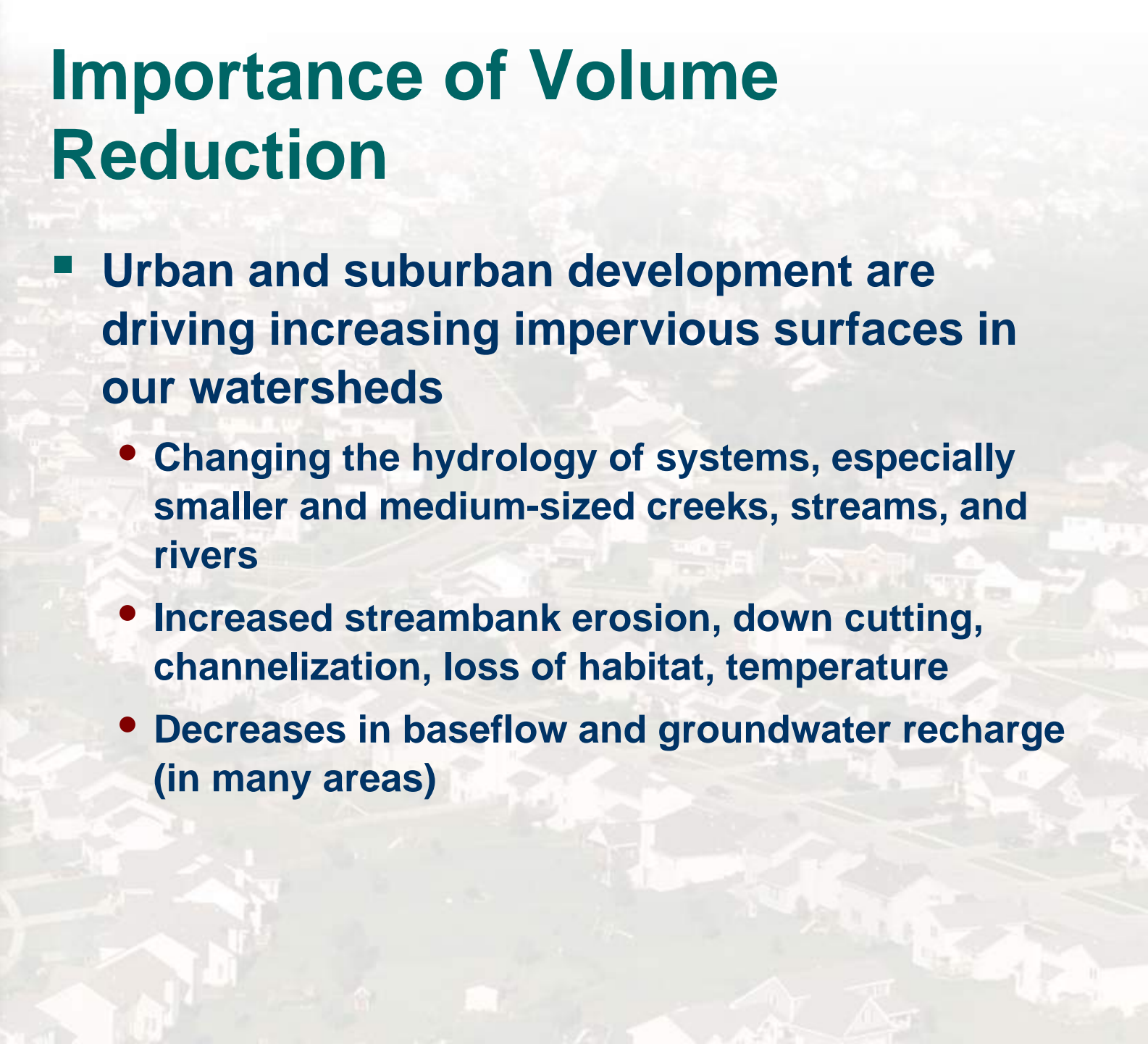
**Better results with only 50% removal.  
It all depends on the input.**



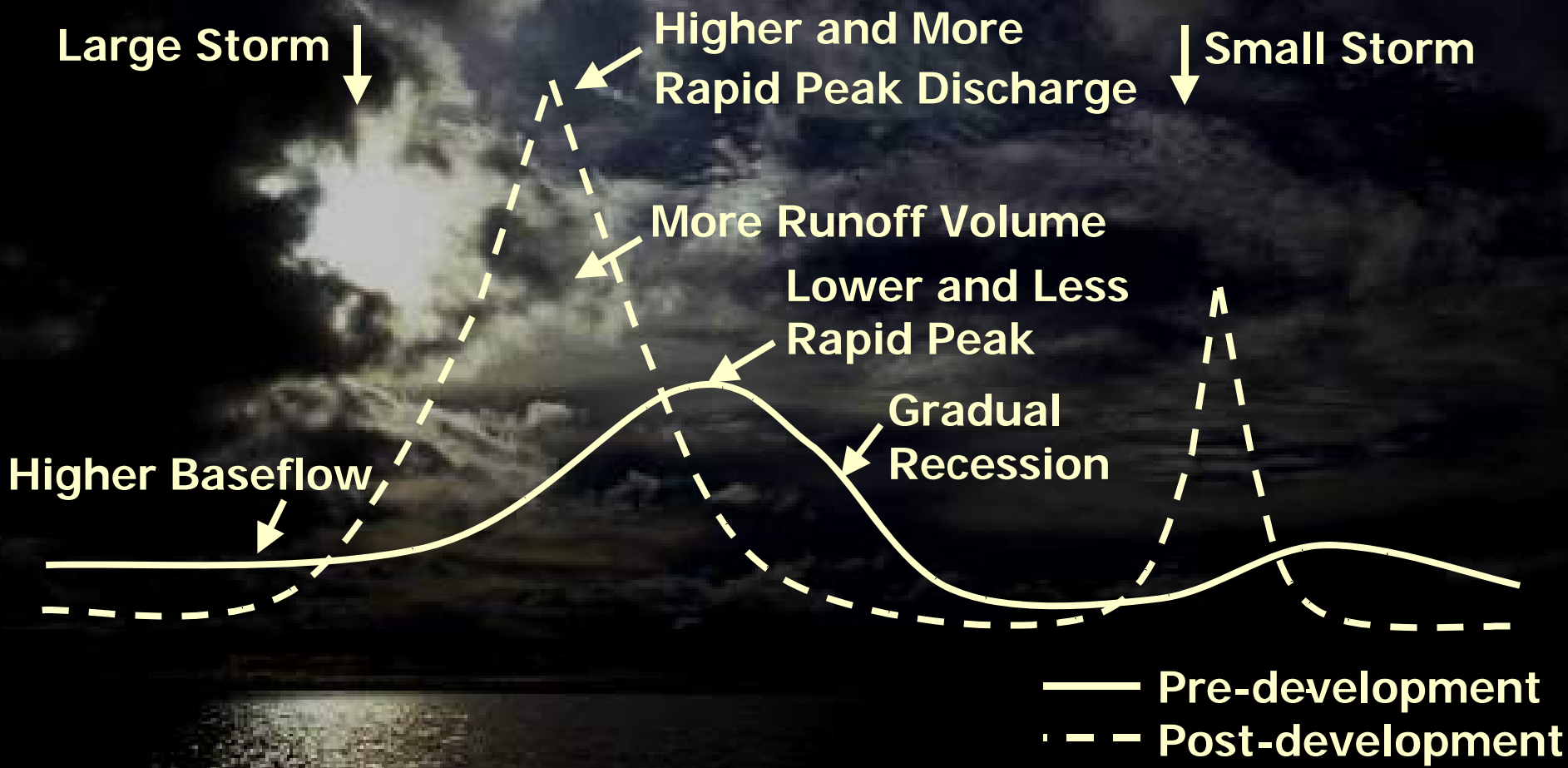


# Importance of Volume Reduction

- **Urban and suburban development are driving increasing impervious surfaces in our watersheds**
  - **Changing the hydrology of systems, especially smaller and medium-sized creeks, streams, and rivers**
  - **Increased streambank erosion, down cutting, channelization, loss of habitat, temperature**
  - **Decreases in baseflow and groundwater recharge (in many areas)**

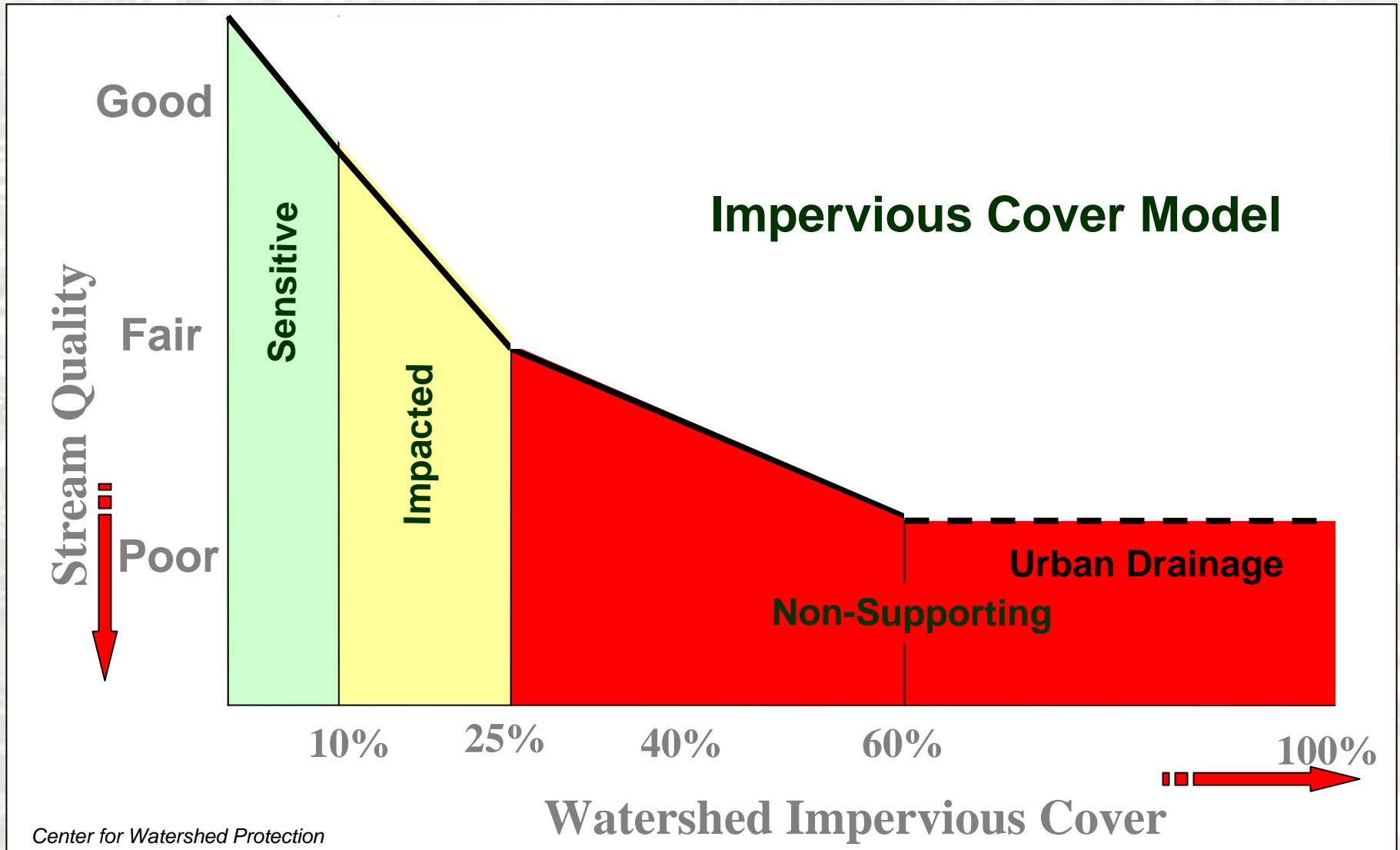


# Consequences of Development to Urban Streams





# Generalized Relationship Between Impervious Cover and Stream Quality



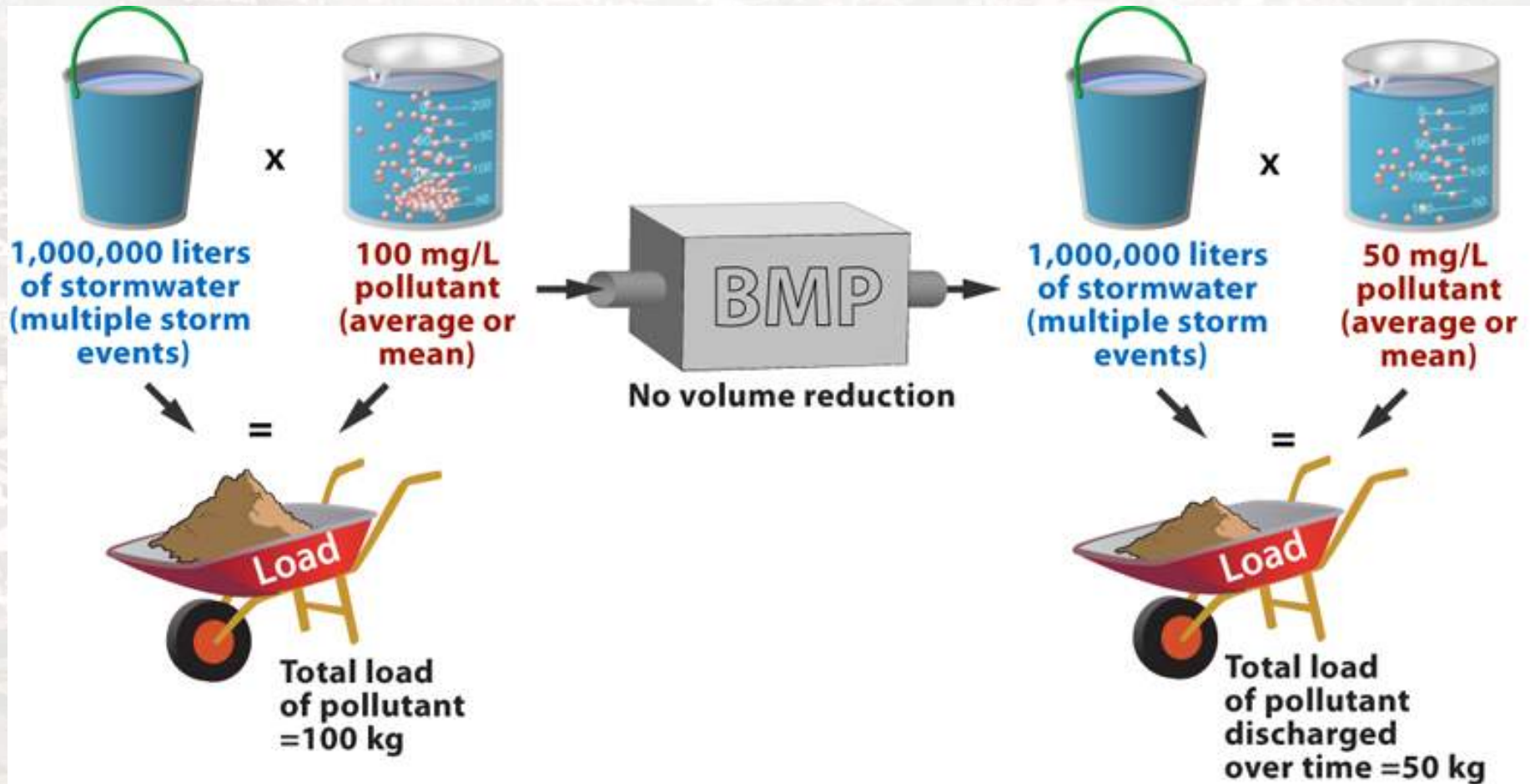
# Volume Reduction (con't)

- Volume (and velocity) reduction is important for its impact on the physical and biological aspects of streams
- Volume reduction also plays an important part in pollutant reduction...



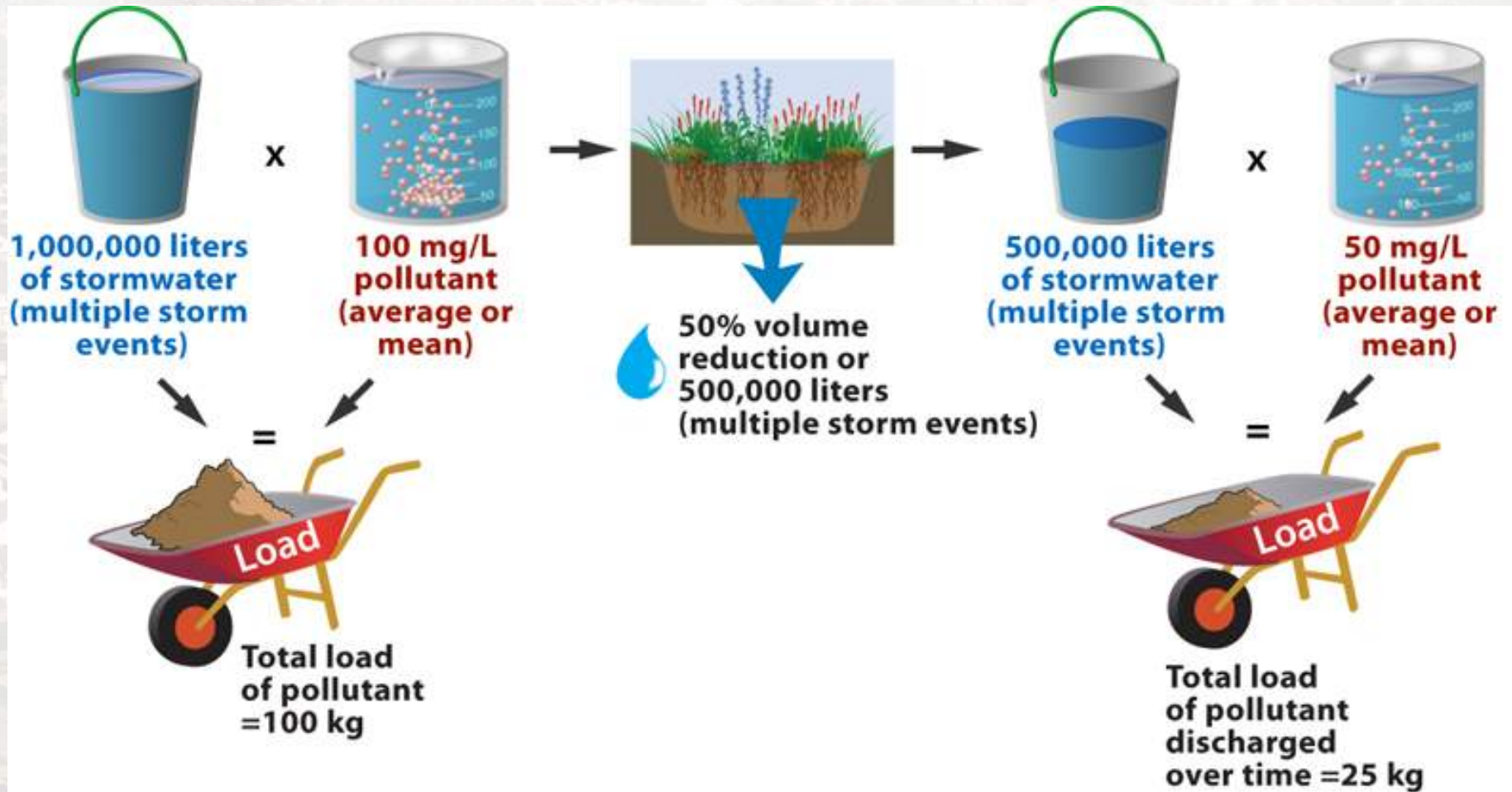


# Total Load Reduction



In this example, the BMP removes 50 kg or 50% of the “total load” of this pollutant. It does not reduce the volume of stormwater discharged.

# Impact of Volume Reduction on Total Load



In this example, the BMP removes 75 kg or 75% of the "total load" of this pollutant. The "true" performance of this BMP is only apparent when we factor in the impact of volume reduction and calculate the total load of the pollutant.





# Monitoring and Assessing BMP Performance

*What makes for a successful approach...*



# Overall Goals

A “good” assessment of any BMP’s performance should examine:

- Pollutant Reduction (water quality performance)
- Volume Reduction (hydrological source control performance)
- Treatment Capacity (hydraulic performance)
  
- ❖ Downstream biological impacts
- ❖ Downstream physical impacts (bank erosion, channelization, etc.)



# Basic Elements

## ■ Sampling

- Number of storm events sampled
- Number of samples per event
- Paired samples (influent and effluent)

## ■ Parameters

- Minimum recommended pollutant parameters





# Understanding Water Quality Variability

- Many sampling programs do not yield useful results – yet they are reported as valid assessments of performance
- Number of samples to obtain a statistically valid result from monitoring program often not considered
- Generally speaking, “More variability in a water quality parameter = higher number of samples you will need”







# Common Pollutants To Monitor

## ■ Common Parameters

- Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
- Total Phosphorus and Various Forms of Phosphorus
- Total Nitrogen and Various Forms of Nitrogen
- Total Copper
- Total Zinc
- Oil and Grease
- E-coli
- Temperature
- pH

- EPA will work on developing a standardized “minimum” recommended list





# Monitoring Guidance



- **EPA/WERF Monitoring Guidance**

[www.bmpdatabase.org/MonitoringEval.htm](http://www.bmpdatabase.org/MonitoringEval.htm)



- **TARP Protocol**

[www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/techservices/tarp/](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/techservices/tarp/)



- **TAPE Protocol**

[www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0210037.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0210037.html)



# Advanced Monitoring Considerations

- **Biological monitoring**
  - Bioassessment protocols
- **Physical**
  - Impact on stream channel





# Questions



# Introduction to EPA's Urban BMP Performance Tool







# Background

- **Many studies on stormwater BMP effectiveness have been conducted.**
  - **Some published in various journals, websites**
  - **Some unpublished**
  - **No easy way to access this all this information**
- **BMP performance information is a natural compliment to EPA's National Menu of BMPs**



# Objectives

- Create a system to provide easy, simple access to stormwater BMP performance studies
- Provide educational information on BMP performance





# Key Steps

- Gathered results and key supporting data from studies that either meet EPA's published criteria or have been published in a peer-reviewed journal or website
- Designed easy to use search and sort options
- Developed format to report pollutant removal and volume reduction information
- Provided linkages to studies, statistical abstracts, and design briefs, where available



# Elements of the Tool

- **Educational essays on:**
  - Understanding BMP performance
  - The importance of volume reduction
  - The problems with “percent removal”
- **Currently info on 220 studies and over 275 BMPs**
  - In first phase, studies are from International BMP Database or from State of California collection
- **Easy to use search options:**
  - Pollutant – 12 pollutant groups, hundreds of subgroups
  - BMP Type – 14 BMP types
  - Volume Reduction – Key to Low Impact Development/Green Infrastructure
  - Key Words





# National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

[Recent Additions](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Print Version](#) Search NPDES:  [GO](#)

[EPA Home](#) > [QW Home](#) > [QW Home](#) > [NPDES Home](#) > Urban BMP Home

[NPDES Topics](#)   [Alphabetical Index](#)   [Stormwater Home](#)   [Comment on the Urban BMP Tool](#)



## Urban BMP Performance Tool

This Urban Stormwater BMP Performance Tool has been developed to provide stormwater professionals with easy access to approximately 220 studies assessing the performance of over 275 BMPs. Additional studies will be added to this collection periodically. This Tool presents information previously compiled by the [International Stormwater BMP Database](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#) and by the State of California in an easy to use search and sort format. In the future, EPA hopes to add more studies to this collection, particularly ones that evaluate the performance of "green infrastructure" or "low impact development" BMPs.

Choosing effective stormwater BMPs is one of the key challenges facing anyone interested in improving or protecting the quality of our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Having access to studies of BMP performance that have been conducted by public agencies, academic researchers, non-profit groups, and others will help make better decisions. This tool provides access to summary information on studies that have been published in recognized journals or that have met [detailed criteria](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#) established by EPA. This tool is not a statistical analysis of the data and, as such, the numbers presented should not be the sole basis for selecting BMPs. The purpose of this tool is to give users an easy to use website to access, read, and explore the literature on BMP performance. EPA hopes that this information will be used to conduct more thorough considerations of BMP selection and placement.



Bioretention area treating runoff from a parking lot

Anyone involved in the process of selecting BMPs to manage stormwater should consider a wide variety of factors, including pollutant removal potential, stormwater volume reduction, installation considerations (soils, slopes, and climate and rainfall patterns), capital costs, maintenance costs, and other factors. These studies can help provide some of this information so that BMPs are appropriate for the site and will contribute to meet

- Urban BMP Performance Tool Home
- Key Topics About BMP Performance
- Frequent Questions & Glossary
- BMP Study Search
- Stormwater Home



Urban BMP  
Performance Tool  
Home

Key Topics About BMP  
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## National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

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### NPDES Urban BMP Performance Tool

#### BMP Study Search

This tool was developed to help stormwater managers identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) appropriate for the individual needs and natural conditions of specific sites. Academics and government agencies have conducted hundreds of scientific studies measuring the effectiveness of various BMPs in managing stormwater. This tool will help stormwater managers access these studies and the conclusions they offer.

You can search for BMP performance studies in four different ways. Click on the radio button to search studies by pollutant, BMP, or volume reduction. Use the search box at the bottom of this page to search by keyword.

#### Search Studies by Pollutant, BMP, or Volume Reduction

- Search studies by the pollutants that were measured:
- 
- Search studies by the BMP examined:
- 
- Search studies by the total volume of stormwater runoff reduced by a BMP:

View Results

Reset





**NITROGEN, TOTAL (MG/L AS N)**

Reference Title	BMP Comment	Influent Concentration	Effluent Concentration	Other Reported Measures of Performance	Percent Volume Reduction	Quality of Study
<a href="#">St. Johns River Water Management District: DeBary Detention with Filtration Pond</a>	DeBary Detention with Filtration Pond	0.81	0.7		-91%	✓ ✓ ✓
<a href="#">Maristany, A. and R. Bartel. 1989. Wetlands and Stormwater Management: A Case Study of Lake Munson, Part I: Long-Term Treatment Efficiencies., Proceedings of the Symposium on Wetlands: Concerns and Successes, AWRA, Tampa, FL, pp. 215-229: Lake Munson System</a>	Lake Munson	1.61	0.88		29%	✓ ✓ ✓
<a href="#">Martin, E. and J. Smoot. 1986. Constituent-Load Changes in Urban Stormwater Runoff Routed Through a Detention Pond-Wetlands System in Central Florida, USGS Report 85-4310</a>	Silver Star Rd Detention Pond	1.38	1.22			✓ ✓ ✓
<a href="#">Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources: McKnight Basin Detention Pond</a>	McKnight Basin Detention Pond	2.09	1.56		-11%	✓ ✓ ✓
<a href="#">Oberts, G. and Osgood, R. 1988. The effectiveness of a detention/wetland treatment system and its effect on an</a>	Lake McCarrone					





## Maristany, A. and R. Bartel. 1989. Wetlands and Stormwater Management: A Case Study of Lake Munson, Part I: Long-Term Treatment Efficiencies., Proceedings of the Symposium on Wetlands: Concerns and Successes, AWRA, Tampa, FL, pp. 215-229: Lake Munson System

### General Information

<b>Primary Author:</b>	Not Available
<b>Co- Author:</b>	Maristany, A.E. and Bartel, R.L.
<b>Primary Data Provider:</b>	International Stormwater BMP Database 1999; Extracted from Literature
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1989
<b>Citation:</b>	Maristany, A.E. and Bartel, R.L.. 01/01/1989 "Maristany, A. and R. Bartel. 1989. Wetlands and Stormwater Management: A Case Study of Lake Munson, Part I: Long-Term Treatment Efficiencies., Proceedings of the Symposium on Wetlands: Concerns and Successes, AWRA, Tampa, FL, pp. 215-229: Lake Munson System" International Stormwater BMP Database 1999; Extracted from Literature

#### Authoring

**Organization:**

**Sponsoring Agency(s):** Northwest Florida Water Management District

**Quality of Study:** ✓ ✓ ✓

**Abstract:**

The study examines the long term performance of a wetland/lake system for stormwater discharge and wastewater effluent discharge. This paper studies a 255-acre wetland/lake system which has received wastewater effluent and stormwater discharges for over 30 years. Six storms were sampled upstream and three storms downstream of the lake. The study documents the constituent removal efficiency for 25 parameters.

Lake Munson displays removal rates that would be commonly expected from relatively new wet detention ponds having similar dimensions and stormwater loading rates. The lake system was effective at retaining particulate material from incoming stormwaters (turbidity 87% removal, suspended solids 95% removal, total P 64% removal, total N 31% removal, BOD 20% removal, TOC 24% removal, total Cr 78% removal, total Cu 72% removal, total Pb 91% removal). Dissolved organic nitrogen and orthophosphate had negative removal rates of -15% and -50%, respectively.



### BMP Information

**BMP Site Name:** Lake Munson  
**BMP Comment:** Lake Munson  
**BMP also known as:** Not Available  
**Description:** Retention Pond (Wet) - Surface Pond With a Permanent Pool  
**Link to BMP Summary:** <http://nswbmp.geosyntec.com/pdfs/-1204551109.pdf> EXIT Disclaimer  
**Link to Statistical Summary:** <http://nswbmp.geosyntec.com/pdfs/-1204551109d.pdf> EXIT Disclaimer  
**Link to Menu of BMPs:** <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm>

#### Study BMP Specification

Name	Value
Permanent Pool Surface Area	103.2 Hectares
Volume of Permanent Pool	1258151.5 Cubic Meters

Click on the linked column headings in the table to view the definition on the FAQ and Glossary page.

#### Pollutants

Name	<a href="#">Inflow Concentration</a>	<a href="#">Outflow Concentration</a>
ALKALINITY, FIXED ENDPOINT (MG/L)	37.05	26.31
BOD-5 (MG/L)	10.15	5.87
CARBON, TOTAL ORGANIC (MG/L AS C)	29.92	16.73
CHLORIDE, TOTAL (MG/L)	8.96	9.8
CHROMIUM, TOTAL (UG/L AS CR)	4.77	0.43
COD (MG/L)	51.19	31.37
COPPER, TOTAL (UG/L AS CU)	0.10	0.00





# Next Steps for Urban BMP Tool

- Add more studies, particularly more on Low Impact Development (LID)/Green Infrastructure BMPs
- Develop input page so researchers can enter their studies
- Identify other information gaps
- Outreach and marketing



# Features of These Databases

- **EPA Urban BMP Performance Tool**
  - Easy access to information from studies, including abstracts, concentrations, and volume information
- **International BMP Database**
  - Key resources for researchers
  - Useful summary table
- **National Pollutant Removal Database**
  - Easy to understand summary information





# Other Important Factors for BMP Selection



# Other Considerations for BMP Selection

Beyond pollutant and volume reduction potential, we need to consider:

- **Costs**
  - Capital costs
  - Costs per acre treated
  - Maintenance costs
- **Maintenance**
  - Frequency of needed maintenance
  - Ease of maintenance, access
- **Function in regional drainage/flood mgt.**
- **Secondary benefits, such as habitat, carbon sequestration, water conservation, etc.**
- **Safety**
- **Aesthetics**
- **Longevity/useful life**





# When evaluating BMPs, know your watershed

- **Water Quality Standards/Designated Uses**
- **Existing impacts (impairments and TMDLs)**
- **Social setting (public acceptance)**
- **Ordinances/regulations**
  - **Required practices**
  - **Enforcement mechanism**
- **Drainage and flooding issues**
- **Future conditions**





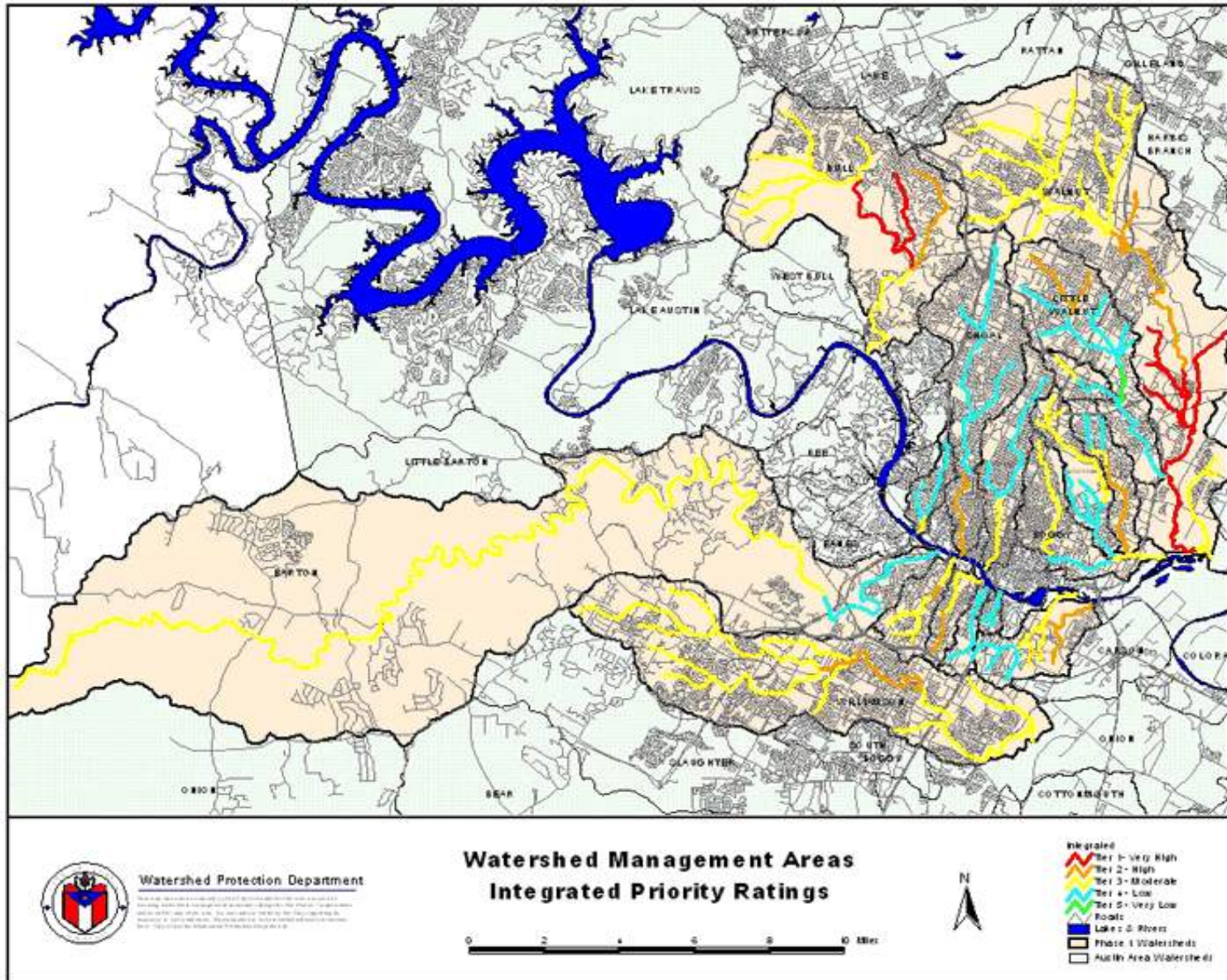
# Moving Beyond Site-Level Planning

- **Successful local post-construction stormwater programs will need to actively engage at multiple scales to protect and restore watersheds**
  - **Regional/Watershed**
  - **Neighborhood**
  - **Site**





# Land Use Planning is the First BMP!







## **Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Wide buffers along major drainageways, master planning entire city, comprehensive drainage criteria manual**





# Post-Construction Manual Coming Soon!

- **CWP (with help from EPA and Tetra Tech) is finalizing a comprehensive manual for local governments on managing post-construction runoff – Release in early Spring 2008**
  - **Will discuss managing stormwater at multiple scales**



# Comparison of (a few) BMP Types

*Pollutant Removal, Volume  
Reduction, Costs, Maintenance, etc.*





# The “Small Print”

aka Caveats

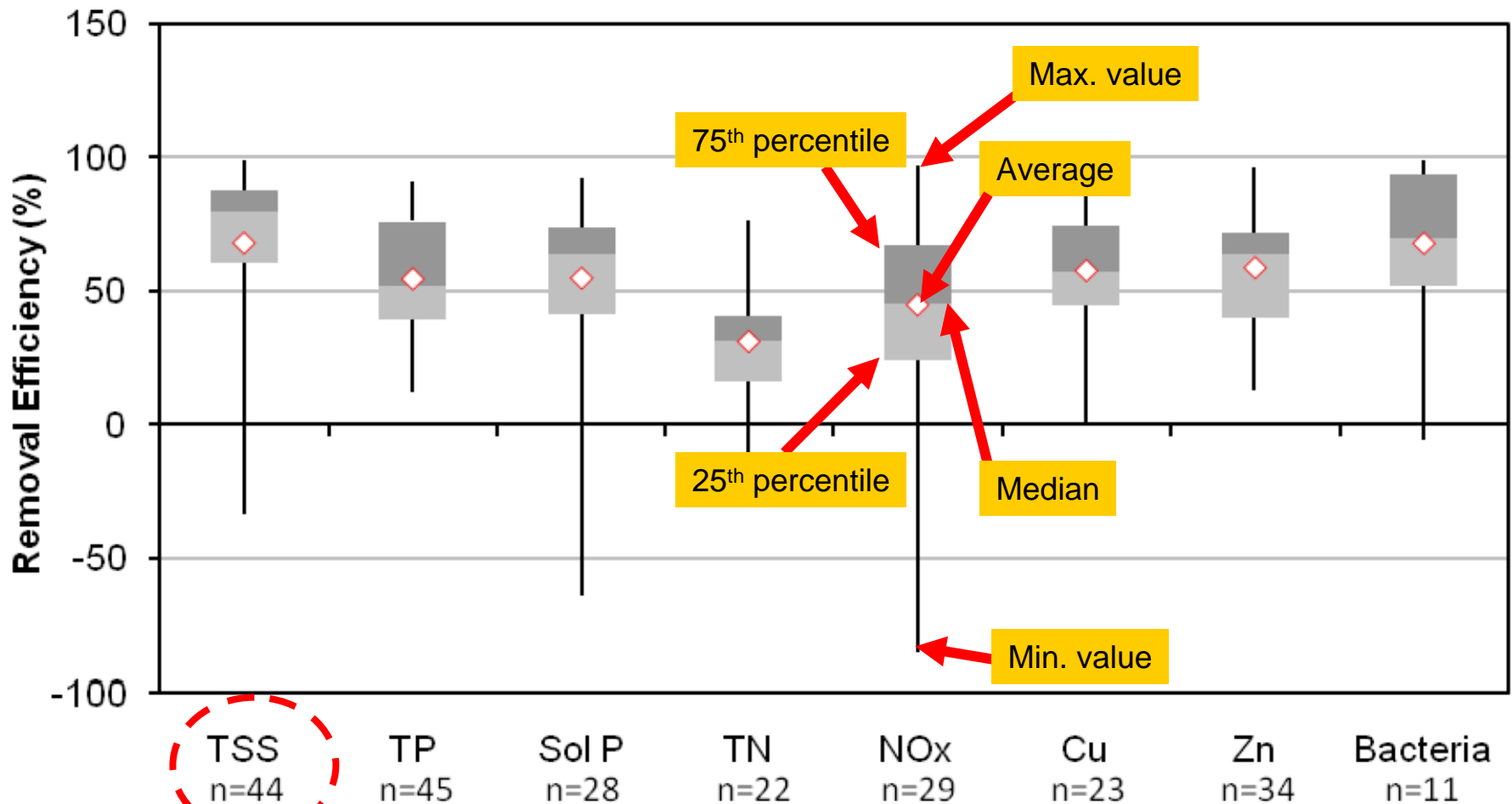
- NPRD/CWP data mixes load reduction and percent removal
- International BMP data is concentration-based
- Data sets are sometimes limited
- Variability in data is often high
- Includes *WAG* (e.g. *Wild A\_\_\_\_\_ Guesses...* )

# Wet Ponds and Created Wetlands



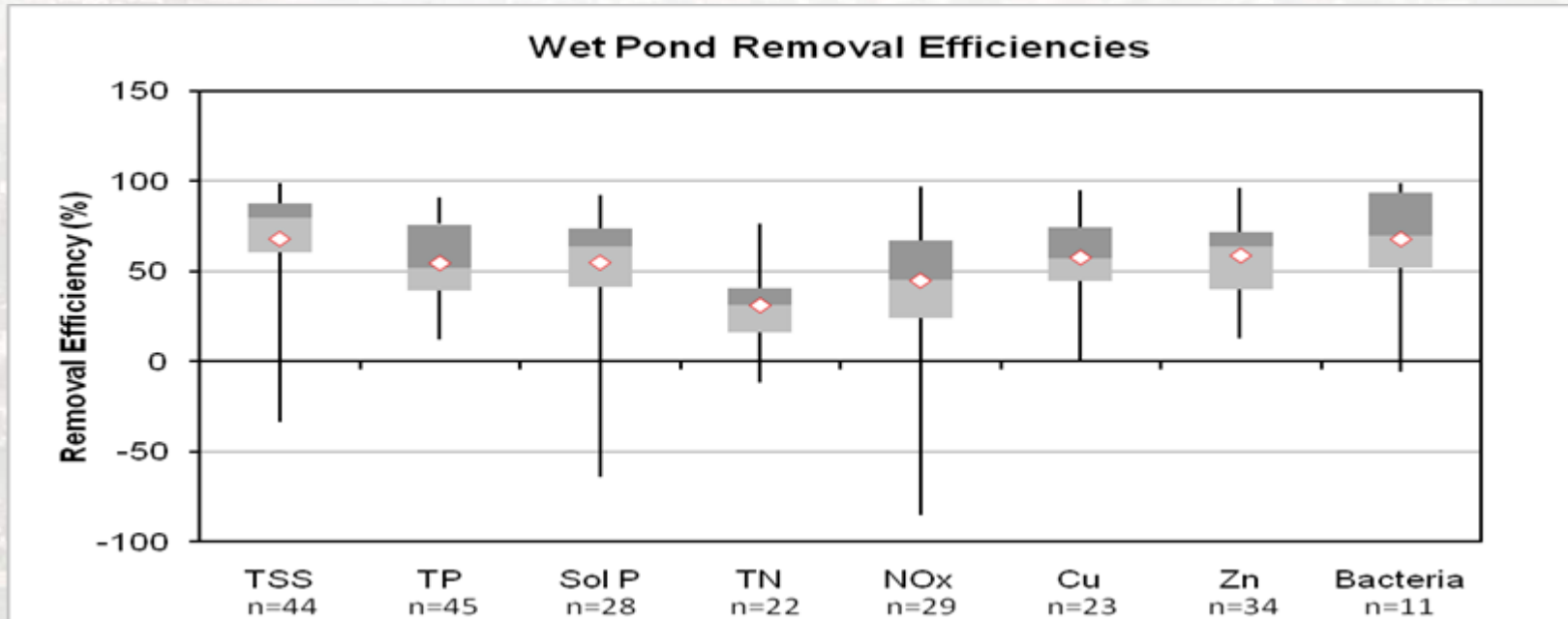


# Example “Box and Whiskers” plot



Parameter and  
Number of studies

# Wet Pond Performance



Median concentrations, International BMP Database (n=25)

	TSS	TP	DP	TN	NO <sub>3</sub>	Cu	Zn	Bacteria
	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L	ug/L	
Median Influent	37.73	0.21	0.09	1.64	0.38	9.84	60.75	na
Median Effluent	9.74	0.1	0.05	1.31	0.20	5.82	21.58	na

WAG Assessment





# Wet Ponds

Construction cost per  
impervious acre = \$8,350 (CWP)  
Infiltration Capacity +/- 10%

## ■ Pros

- Pollutant removal generally good
- Peak flow control
- Can be community assets
- Can be (re)designed to include trees, wetland plants, etc. Could also lower some maintenance costs

## ■ Cons

- **Little volume reduction (+/- 10%)**
- Potential outflow impacts on stream channel
- Increases water temp
- Traditional designs offer little habitat value
- Design may lead to high maintenance costs

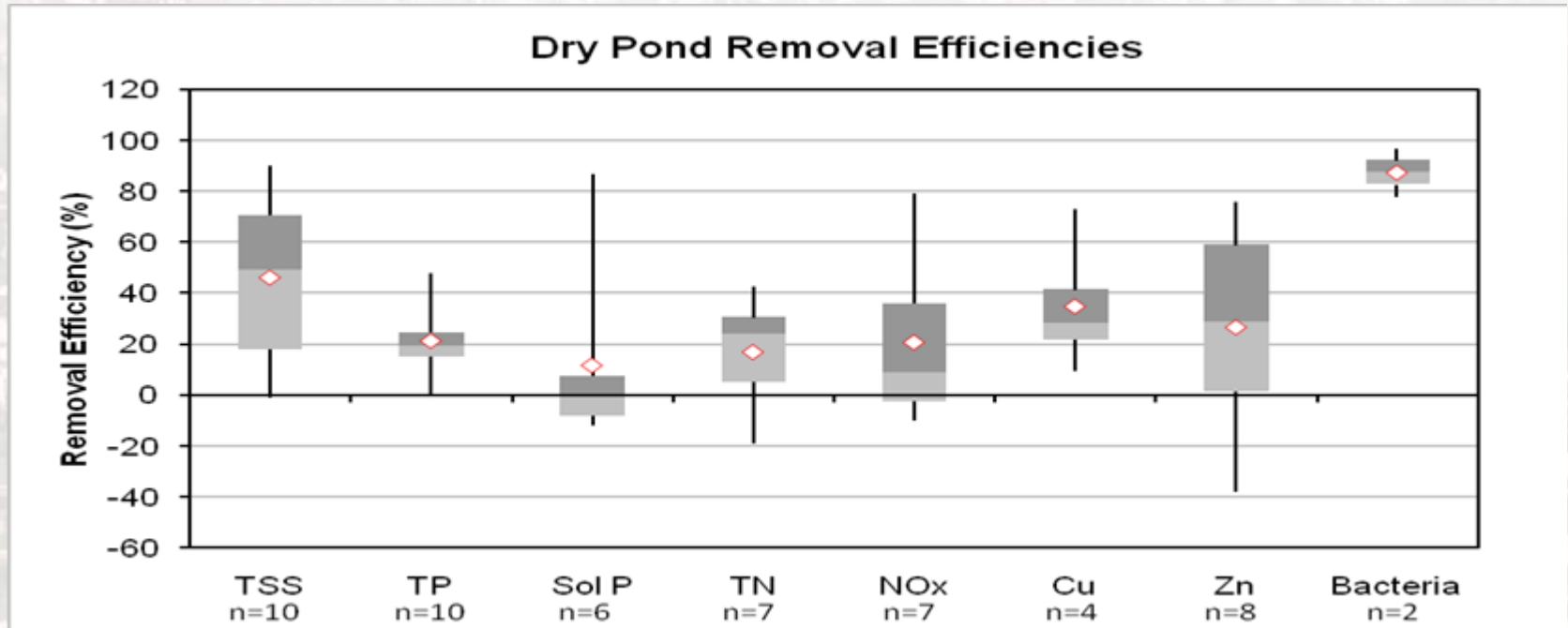


# Dry Ponds





# Dry Pond Performance



Median concentrations, International BMP Database (n =25)

	TSS	TP	DP	TN	NO <sub>3</sub>	Cu	Zn	Bacteria
	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L	ug/L	
Median Influent	72.64	0.19	0.09	1.25	0.7	20.13	111.56	na
Median Effluent	26.74	0.19	0.09	2.22	0.48	15.91	58.66	na





# Dry Pond

Construction cost per impervious  
acre = \$3,800 (CWP)  
Infiltration Capacity +/- 20%-30%

## ■ Pros

- Can be multiple use areas, such as ball fields
- Reduce “peak” flow impacts
- Often unrecognized, moderate infiltration capacity

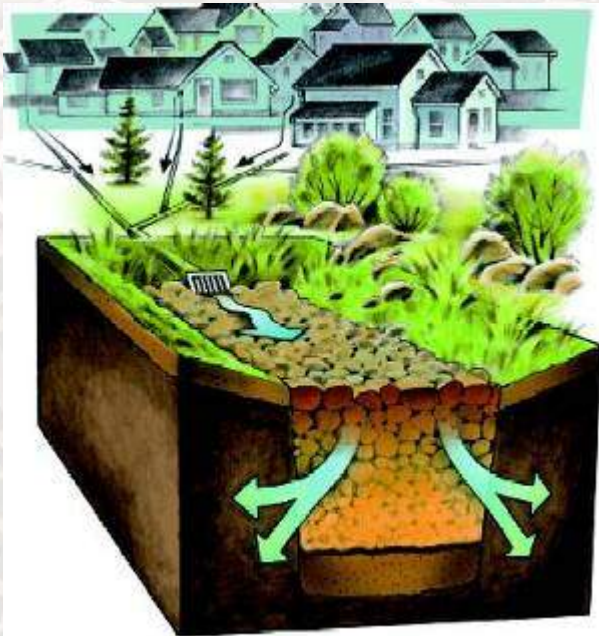
## ■ Cons

- Generally not very effective at pollutant removal
- Infiltration capacity moderate to low
- Maintenance cost can be high due to frequent mowing and trash removal



# Green Infrastructure

## Low Impact Development





# Rain Gardens





# Wetland Swales





# Porous Landscape Detention



Portland, OR



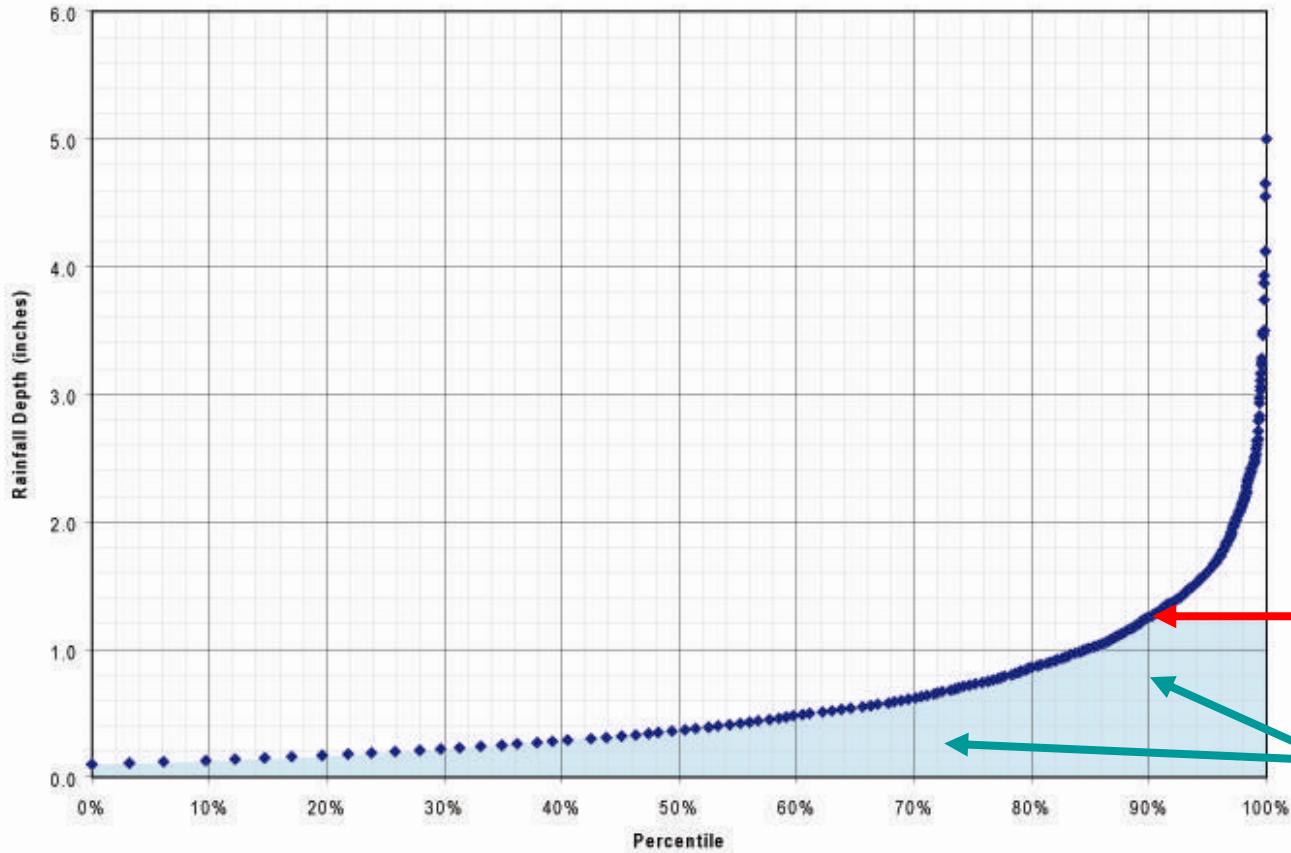
# Curbless Streets





# Infiltrating Rainfall Can Result in Dramatic Pollutant Reductions

Worcester, MA – Rainfall events 1948-2004



90% Storm event  
= 1.25 inches

In Worcester,  
infiltrating the first  
1.25" = 90% of  
the total  
stormwater  
volume



# Bioretention

Construction cost/ impervious  
acre = \$25,000 (CWP)  
Infiltration potential - +/- 90%

## ■ Pros

- **Generally high volume reduction** (groundwater recharge) (**+/- 90%**)
- Generally high pollutant removal
- Performance improved without underdrains or when using BMPs in series
- Routine maintenance may be lower – no mowing
- Possible related savings via reduction in “grey” infrastructure

## ■ Cons

- Small size means more BMPs to track and maintain
- Best design specs uncertain at present
- Maintenance issues with private land owners
- Higher construction costs per impervious acre



# Recommendations for BMP Designers

- Use a treatment train approach for BMPs that considers:
  - The pollutants of concern and their form
  - The BMPs that can effectively address these pollutants
  - The volume reduction potential of the BMPs
- Using a treatment train will help to account for the inherent variability and uncertainties that are associated with BMP performance
- Use performance data to help improve designs





# Recommendations for Designers (con't)

- Design BMPs for better performance than “average” or “median.” The upper 75% quartile makes a good target
- Use conservative criteria, including sizing and focusing on longer residence times for volume based BMPs, as well as larger sizing of filters and other flow-through BMPs
- Accomplish multiple benefits in accordance with goals





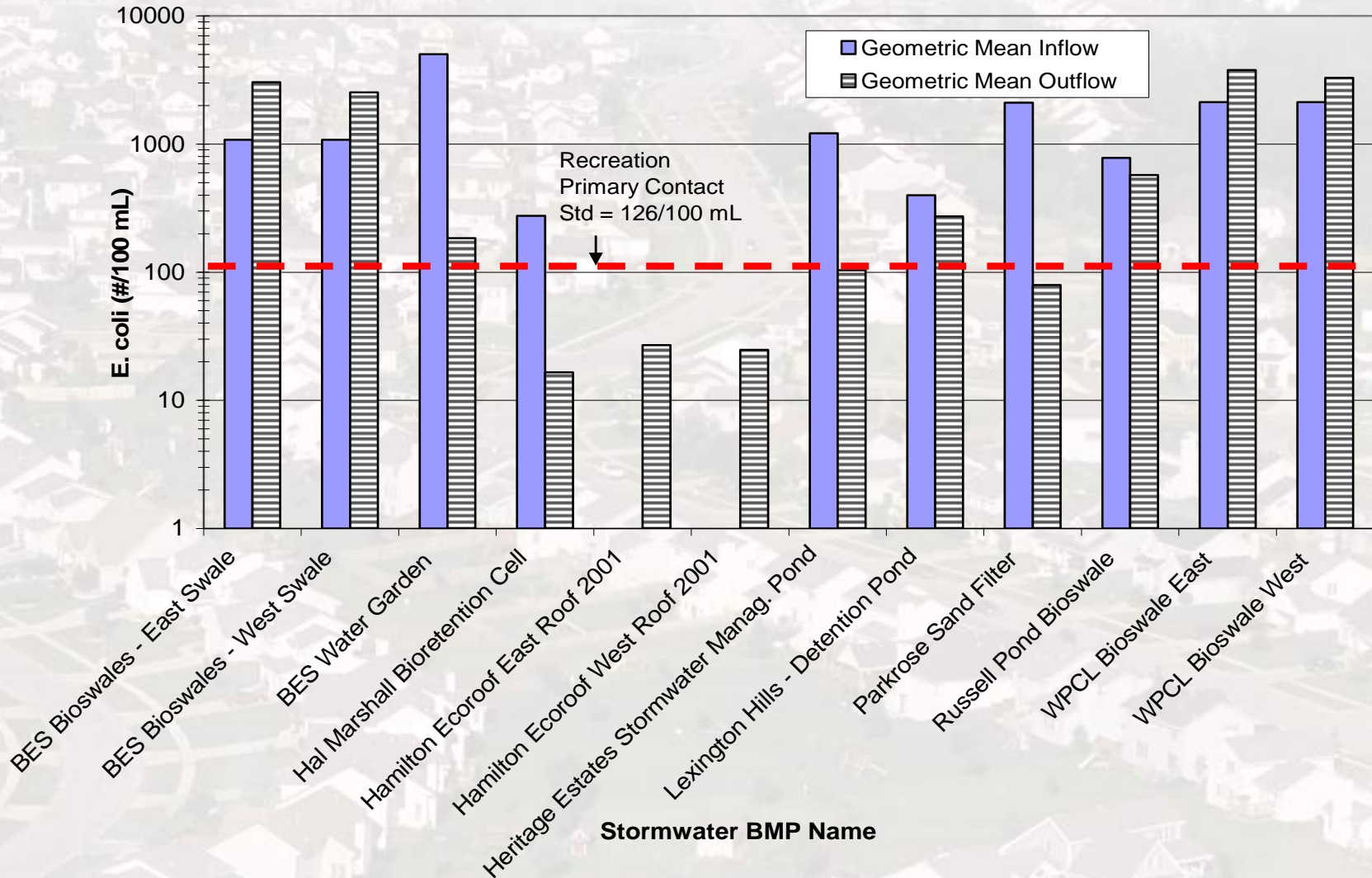
# Future Research Needs

- **Lots of data gaps**

- **How to best assess infiltrating devices**
- **Need consistency in study designs and parameters assessed**
- **Better quality studies, eliminate reliance on “percent removal”**
- **Start assessing impacts on biology and stream morphology**
- **Start assessing BMP performance at larger scales (neighborhood, watershed, etc.)**
- **Bacteria – better measures and more research on BMP performance**

# Controlling Bacterial Presents Real Challenges

Figure 2. Comparison of Geometric Mean E. coli Data for Stormwater BMPs in International Stormwater BMP Database







# Questions



# Using BMP Performance Information in Your Stormwater Program







# Using BMP Performance data in your stormwater program

- **BMP selection and design**
  - Project engineer/consultant
  - Plan review staff
- **TMDL implementation**
- **Watershed modeling**



# TMDL implementation

## Estimating wasteload allocations (WLAs)

*Before* WLA is developed:

- Better info on BMPs = Better/more complete WLA

*After* WLA is developed:

- Use BMP performance data to demonstrate compliance with permits limits that implement WLA
- BMP performance data can provide rationale to demonstrate that BMPs achieve goals of WLA



# Example: Portland, OR

- MS4 permit requires the City to develop “pollutant load reduction benchmarks” for areas where TMDLs have been established
- Used to assess overall effectiveness of SWMP in meeting WLA
- Benchmarks developed by modeling pollutant reductions from BMPs





# Stormwater and TMDL References

- **Summary of 17 TMDLs with Stormwater Sources**  
[www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/17\\_TMDLs\\_Stormwater\\_Sources.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/17_TMDLs_Stormwater_Sources.pdf)
- **Total Maximum Daily Loads and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Permits for Impaired Water Bodies: A Summary of State Practices**  
[www.epa.gov/region5/water/wshednps/topic\\_tmdls.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/wshednps/topic_tmdls.htm)
- **Forth coming guidance on stormwater/TMDLs for permit writers and TMDL developers**





# Watershed modeling

- **BMP Performance data can be used in many types of models**
  - **BMP modeling**
  - **Water quality/watershed modeling**
  - **Water quantity/flood modeling**
- **More accurate data on BMP performance improve the model accuracy**



# Questions