



Wake County Erosion Control ENews

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Sedimentation & Erosion Control Section*

Summer 2006

First Lunch & Learn Workshop Held

The Sedimentation & Erosion Control (S&EC) Section hosted its first Lunch & Learn session on June 21, 2006, in the Parker Falls Subdivision in northern Wake County. The seminar, originally scheduled for June 14 the day the remnants of Hurricane Alberto blew through Wake County drew, 42 participants, including 21 homebuilders.

The seminar was modeled after Wake County's On-Site Wastewater training and included such topics as the proper protection of a single-lot construction site and encroachment into a Neuse or Cape Fear river buffer. Explanations of new regulations for single-lot construction and of a new flyer regarding approved protection devices being distributed with building permits were also offered. Photos of these devices can be found on Page 3.

The next Lunch & Learn is tentatively scheduled for Southern Wake County in the spring of 2007. Contact Byron Brady at (919) 856-6195 for more information.



Volunteers operating the Enviroscape at the Festival on the Eno July 2, 2006

DES Promotes Clean Water in Durham

Members of Wake County's Department of Environmental Services' Division of Water Quality were on hand in July at the *Festival on the Eno* in Durham, to promote clean water practices.

Wake County shared a booth with the Durham City & County Stormwater Division and the Upper Neuse River Basin Association. Volunteers helped operate an enviroscape at the booth. The enviroscape is used to demonstrate good practices for protecting water quality to elementary school-age children.



Debbie Greene with the S&EC Section describes the Neuse River buffer rules to those in attendance



Attendees view "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Erosion Control"

Wake County's Sedimentation & Erosion Control Program

The Wake County Sedimentation & Erosion Control Program is a part of the Division of Water Quality in the Department of Environmental Services. The staff consists of seven full-time Environmental Engineers/Consultants and manages approximately 800+ active projects.

In addition to the unincorporated areas of Wake County, the program also manages the areas of the towns of **Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wendell and Zebulon.**



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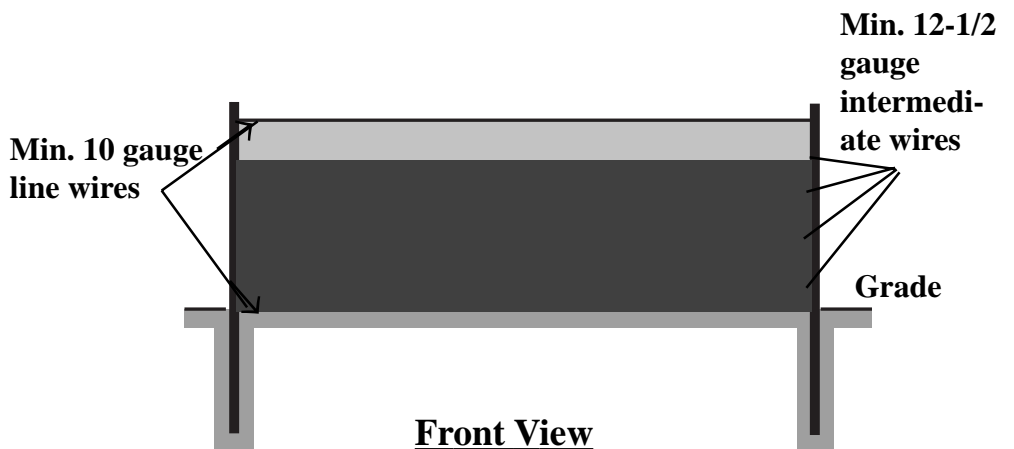
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Silt Fence Required on Single Lots

Effective February 1, 2006, all single-lot construction sites, regardless of size, will be required to install the silt fence type shown below. These regulations impact lots within those towns that have adopted the revised ordinance as well as the unincorporated areas of Wake County.

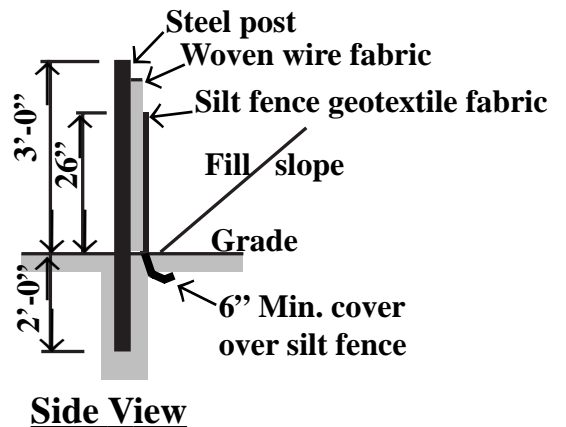
Prior to the adoption of the revised Sedimentation & Erosion Control Ordinance by the Wake County Board of Commissioners on January 17, 2006, only projects with disturbed areas of one acre or more were required to use silt fences. Now, building inspectors will not approve the initial footing inspection for a single lot unless the proper silt fence and construction entrance has been correctly installed.

Should you have any questions regarding the proper installation of silt fences on your construction site, please contact Byron Brady at 919-856-6195.



Notes:

1. Bottom of silt fence needs to be turned uphill (underground).



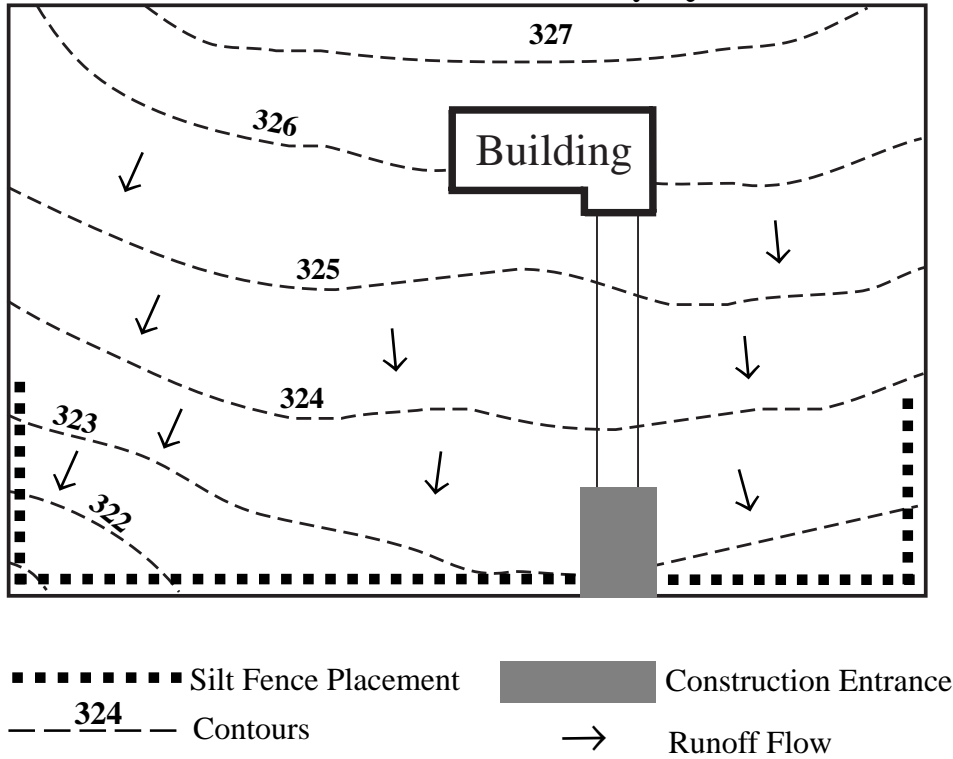
Approved Silt Fence Detail

Not to scale

Effective February 1, 2006

Failure to install and maintain the proper erosion control devices can result in fines of up to \$5,000 per day. Contact Byron Brady at (919) 856-6195 for a .pdf file containing these details.

Silt Fence is required on the low side of all construction sites in Wake County's jurisdiction



Correct Placement of Silt Fence

Not to scale

Silt Fence Examples



Shown above is an example of a steel-post, wire-back silt fence. This is the only silt fence accepted in the field by the Wake County Erosion Control Ordinance.



The silt fence shown above, referred to as "silt fence on a stick", is not approved as an erosion control device by the Wake County Erosion Control Ordinance.

Erosion Control Now Using GPS Technology

Wake County Sedimentation & Erosion Control (S&EC) staff engineers are using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology to quickly and accurately determine if land disturbance is subject to Wake County's Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance, saving the County time and taxpayers money.

When land is cleared or disturbed, soil erosion can occur unless adequate preventive measures are taken. Land Disturbing Permits are required for any site with land disturbance of one acre or more. Failure to obtain a permit can result in an automatic fine of \$5,000 and additional fines of up to

\$5,000 per day until the permit has been issued.

In the past, determining the amount of land disturbed has been time-consuming and subject to disputes. Now, staff engineers are able to compute the disturbed area of any construction site in a few minutes by using GPS units. On August 15, 2006, the S&EC staff completed basic GPS training for their new hand-held GPS units, which were partially funded with a grant from the N.C. Sedimentation Control Commission. By using the "track" mode on the GPS and walking the perimeter of the disturbed area, staff can quickly calculate the linear

feet and, thus, the square feet of the total area.



Members of the S&EC Section completed basic GPS training August 15, 2006, on their new hand-held GPS units.