

Basic Stormwater Characteristics and Small Storm Hydrology

The Integration of Water Quality and Drainage Design Objectives


Robert Pitt, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE
Emeritus Cudworth Professor of Urban Water
Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL, USA 35487

1

Outline of Presentation

- Possible Beijing stormwater issues
- Stormwater quality characteristics
- Sources of stormwater pollutants
- First-flush of stormwater pollutants
- Beijing drainage design storms
- Urban stormwater hydrology
- Pavement hydrology
- Infiltration characteristics of compacted urban soils
- Sources of stormwater flows and pollutants; field monitoring
- TSS vs. SSC and PSD relationships
- Summary/Conclusions

2



Stormwater Effects

- Sediment (amount and quality)
- Habitat destruction (mostly through high flows [energy] and sedimentation)
- Eutrophication (nutrient enrichment)
- Low dissolved oxygen (from organic materials)
- Pathogens (urban wildlife vs. municipal wastewater)
- Toxicants (heavy metals and organic toxicants)
- Temperature
- Debris and unsafe conditions
- etc.

Photo by Lovena, Harrisburg, PA

3

Possible Stormwater Issues in Beijing

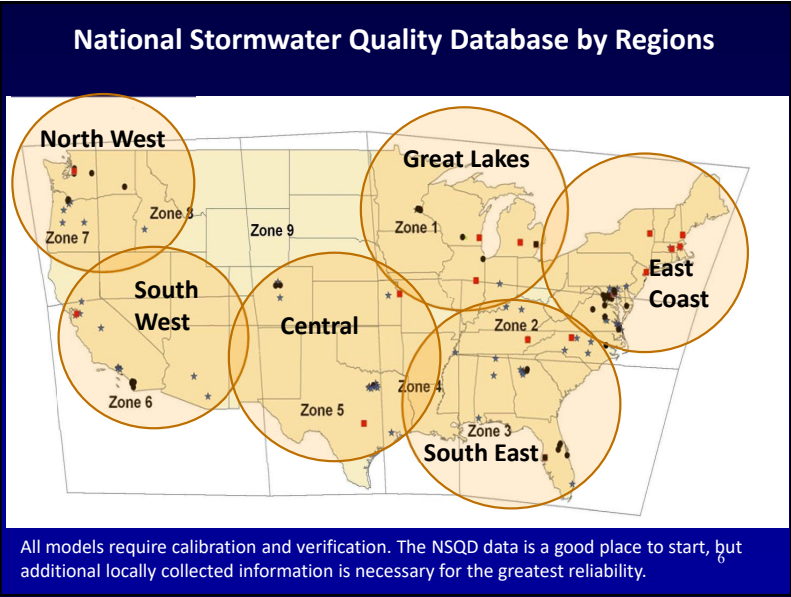
- High seasonal flows, long dry period
- High nutrient discharges
- First flush investigations
- Distributed infiltration to:
 - Reduce flow discharges to drainage system to reduce overflows and other drainage issues
 - Decreased discharges of nutrients to surface waters
 - Enhance water supply

4

Data Origin for National Stormwater Quality Database (NSQD)

Source	Total Storms	Percentage
Phase I NPDES (MS4)	5,707	62.5
EPA's Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP)	1,757	19.2
International BMP Database (influent data at outfalls)	883	9.7
Special Projects (USGS, state programs, and others)	783	8.6
TOTAL	9,130	100

5

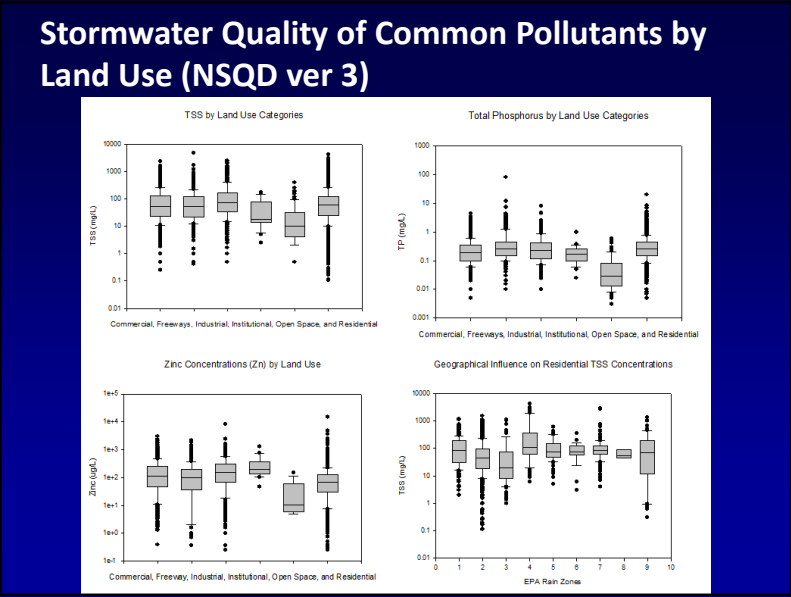


6

Constituents and Number of Observations Included in NSQD ver. 4 (having at least 50 observations; high-lighted constituents have at least 5,000 observations)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total events: 9,130 Precipitation depth: 5,172 Runoff depth: 2,591 Hardness: 1,670 Alkalinity: 525 pH: 3,253 Temperature: 1,251 TDS: 4,158 Conductivity: 1,517 Chloride: 869 Total solids: 100 Total suspended solids: 7,713 Turbidity: 936 BOD₅: 5,227 COD: 5,290 DO: 192 Fecal coliforms: 2,223 Fecal streptococcus: 1,317 Total coliforms: 282 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total nitrogen: 1,213 Total Kjeldahl N: 7,044 Total organic N: 66 Ammonia: 3,020 Nitrate N: 1,028 Nitrite N: 714 Nitrite + nitrate: 5,748 Total phosphorus: 8,019 Filtered P: 4,051 Ortho phosphate: 746 Filtered ortho P: 244 Total antimony: 1,584 Filtered antimony: 641 Total arsenic: 2,441 Filtered arsenic: 770 Total barium: 582 Total beryllium: 1,509 Filtered beryllium: 578 Total cadmium: 4,105 Filtered cadmium: 961 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total chromium: 2,328 Filtered chromium: 821 Total copper: 5,915 Filtered copper: 1,002 Cyanide: 1,338 Total iron: 608 Filtered iron: 556 Total lead: 363 (before 1984) Total lead: 5,032 (since 1984) Filtered lead: 1,016 (since 84) Total mercury: 1,702 Filtered mercury: 706 Total nickel: 2,164 Filtered nickel: 807 Total selenium: 1,737 Filtered selenium: 682 Total silver: 1,880 Filtered silver: 766 Total thallium: 1,423 Filtered thallium: 653 Total zinc: 6,638 Filtered zinc: 984
---	--	--

7



8

Source Characteristics of Stormwater Pollutants

- Quality of sheetflows vary for different areas.
- Need to track pollutants from sources and examine controls that affect these sources, the transport system, and outfall.

9

Sources of Common Stormwater Pollutants

The stormwater data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the USGS between 1991 and 1997 for multiple research studies were compiled and analyzed as a single data set. The data include sampling locations at roofs, streets, driveways, parking lots, lawns, and undeveloped areas in residential, commercial, and light industrial land uses. (NRC 2015).

10

First flush analyses compared first 30 minute composite to complete storm composite samples for the 50 to 100 events in the NSQD having the data. Not all constituents or land uses exhibited first flush. Total phosphorus had significant first flush for commercial and residential areas, but not for industrial, institutional, or open space areas.

	n	Overall ratio
TSS, mg/L	90	1.85
TDS, mg/L	82	1.83
COD, mg/L	91	2.29
BOD ₅ , mg/L	83	1.77
Ammonia, mg/L	70	2.11
NO ₂ + NO ₃ , mg/L	84	1.73
TKN, mg/L	93	1.71
P Total, mg/L	89	1.44
Cadmium Total, mg/L	74	2.15
Chromium Total, mg/L	47	1.67
Copper Total, mg/L	92	1.62
Lead Total, mg/L	89	1.65
Nickel, mg/L	47	2.4
Zinc, mg/L	90	1.93

11

This investigation of first flush conditions indicated that a first flush effect was not present for all the land use categories, and certainly not for all constituents.

Commercial and residential areas were more likely to show first flushes, especially if the peak rainfall occurred near the beginning of the event.

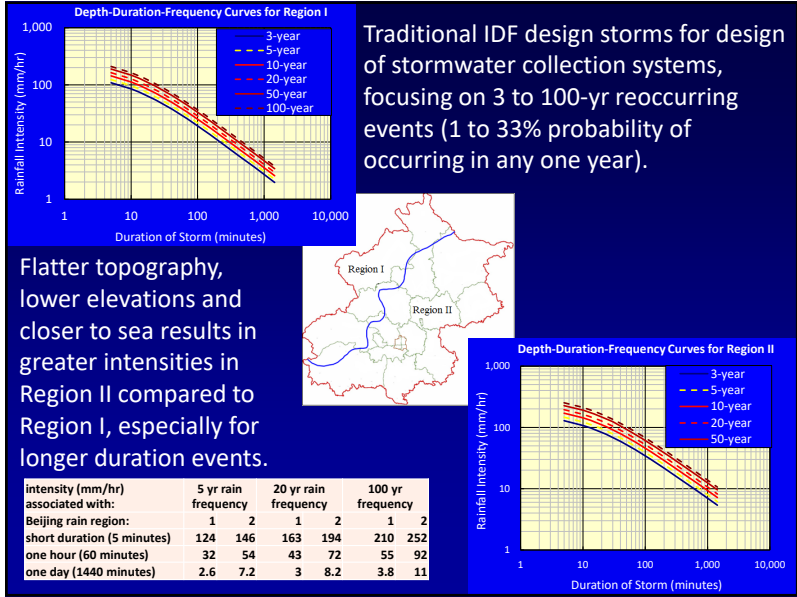
It is expected that this effect will be more likely to occur in a watershed with a high level of imperviousness, but even so, the data indicated first flushes for less than half of the samples for the most impervious areas, most likely due to varying rain with time.

Complex drainage systems will also blend separate flows at different time steps, further obscuring first flushes.

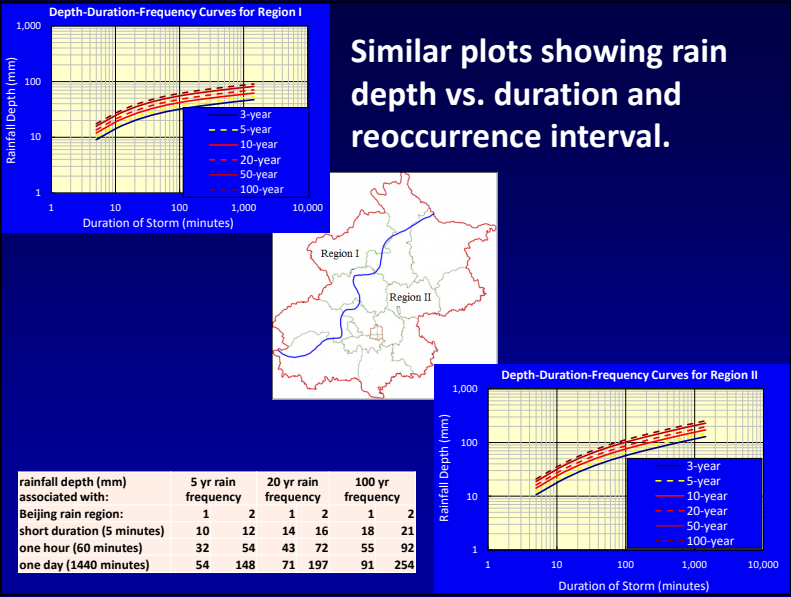
12



13



14



15

Urban Stormwater Hydrology

- Early focus of urban stormwater was on storm sewer and flood control design using the Rational Method and TR-55 (both single event, "design storm" methods).
- The Curve Number procedure was developed in the 1950s by the (then) SCS as a simple tool for estimating volumes generated by large storm events in agricultural areas, converted to urban uses in mid 1970s (TR55 in SCS 1976). Data based on many decades of observations of large storms in urban areas, at Corps of Engineers monitoring locations. Data available from the Rainfall-Runoff database report prepared by the Univ. of Florida for the EPA.
- Water quality focus results from Public Law 92-500, the Clean Water Act, 1972. Stormwater quality research started in the late 1960s, with a few earlier interesting studies. Big push with Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP) in late 70s and early 80s. Most still rely on earlier drainage design approaches. Distributed infiltration systems demonstrated in the 1960s.

16

Importance of Site Hydrology in the Design of Stormwater Controls

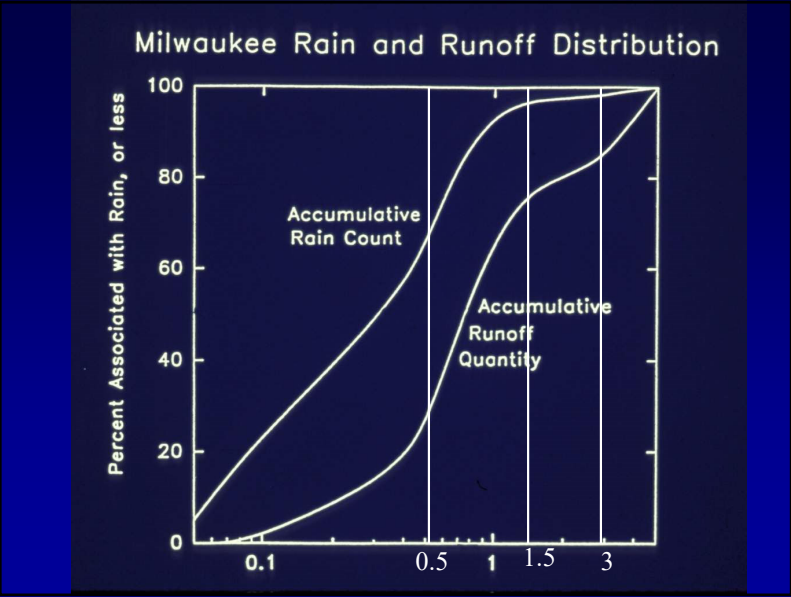
- Design of stormwater management programs requires knowledge of site hydrology
- Understanding of flows (variations for different storm conditions, sources of flows from within the drainage area, and quality of those flows), are needed for effective design of source area and outfall controls.

17

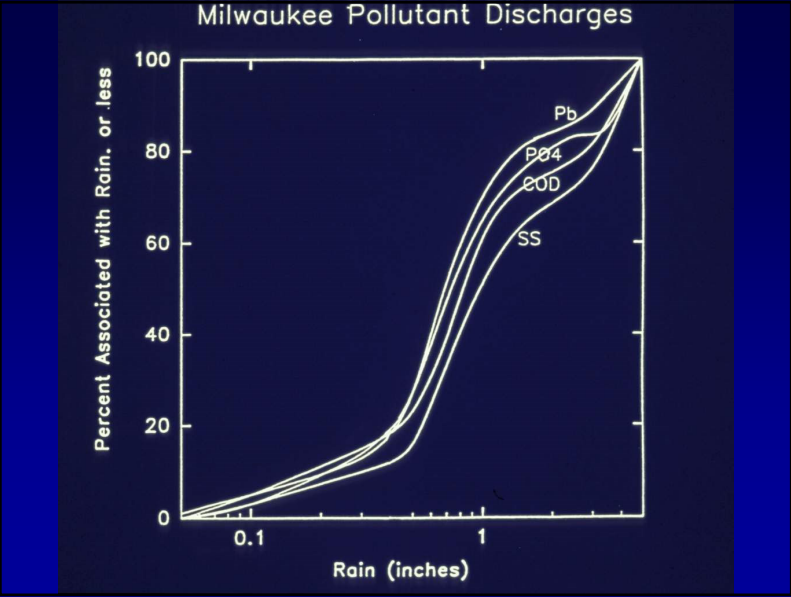
Design Issues for Stormwater Quality Management

- Recognize different objectives of storm drainage systems
- Recognize associated rainfall conditions affecting different objectives
- Select appropriate tools for evaluation and design
- Example - 4 major rainfall categories for Milwaukee, WI (as monitored during NURP):
 - <0.5 in (<12 mm) (median rain by count)
 - 0.5 to 1.5 in (12 to 40 mm) (most of the runoff)
 - 1.5 to 3 in (40 to 75 mm) (few events)
 - >3 in (>75 mm) (drainage design and flooding)

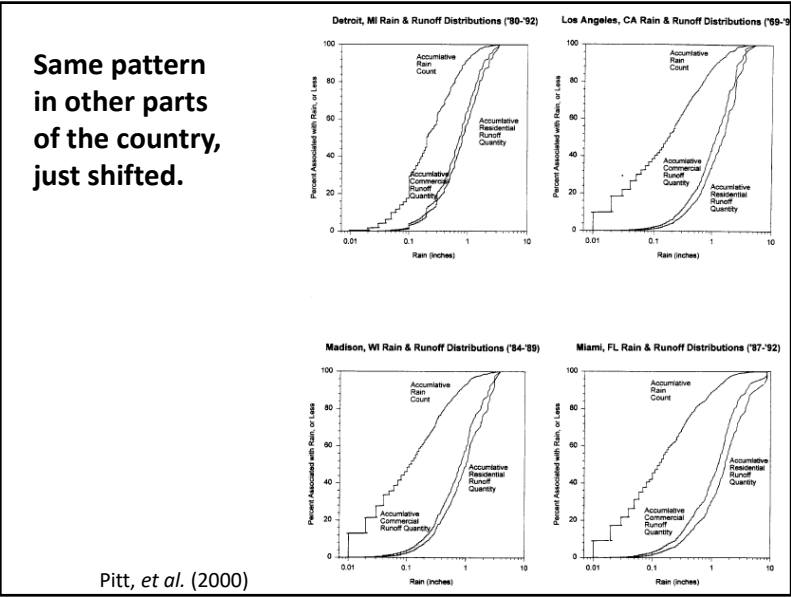
18



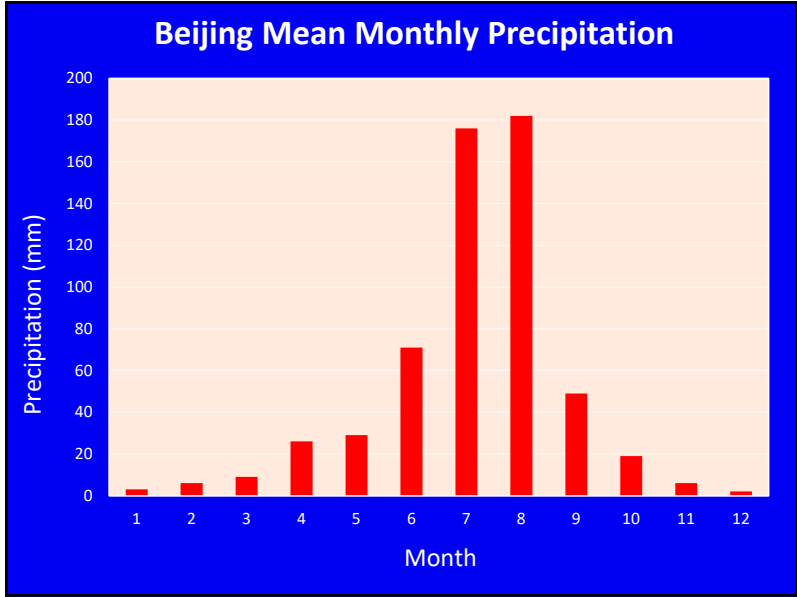
19



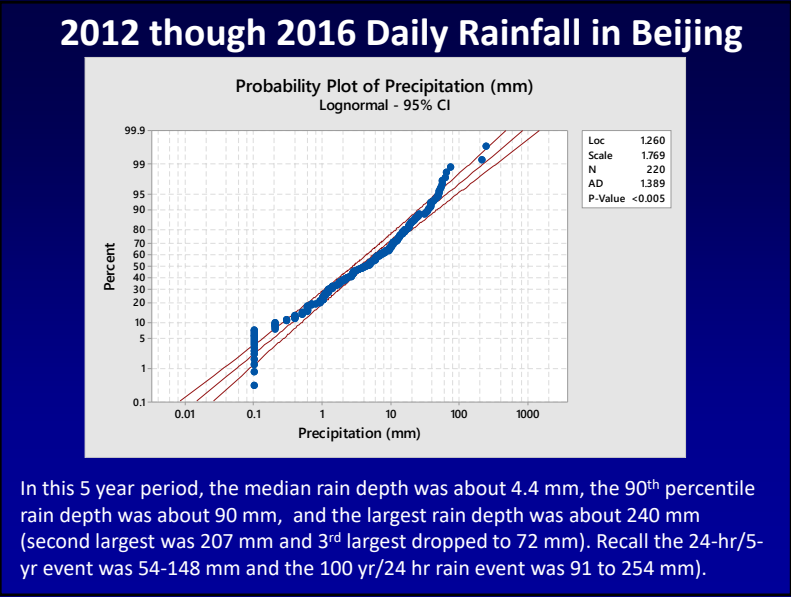
20



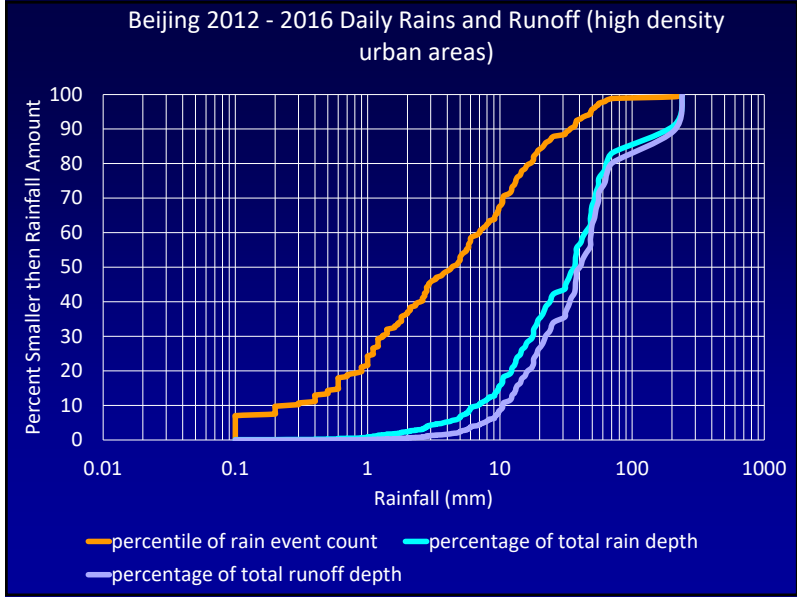
21



22



23



24

Importance of Small and Intermediate Sized Rains

Beijing 2012 through 2016 rains	
% of rain events <10 mm depth:	70%
Rain depth associated with 10% of annual runoff:	<10 mm
Rain depth associated with 50% of annual runoff:	<40 mm
Rain depth associated with 80% of annual runoff:	<70 mm

Large rains >70 mm therefore contributed about 20% of the annual runoff for this 5 year monitoring period (unusually large?)

Cover description Cover type and hydrologic condition	Average percent impervious area ²	Curve numbers for hydrologic soil group			
		A	B	C	D
<i>Fully developed urban areas (vegetation established)</i>					
Open space (lawns, parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.) ³ :					
Poor condition (grass cover < 50%)	68	79	86	89	
Fair condition (grass cover 50% to 75%)	49	60	79	84	
Good condition (grass cover > 75%)	39	61	74	80	
Impervious areas:					
Paved parking lots, roofs, driveways, etc. (excluding right-of-way)	98	98	98	98	
Streets and roads:					
Paved, curbs and storm sewers (excluding right-of-way)	98	98	98	98	
Paved open ditches (including right-of-way)	83	86	92	93	
Gravel (including right-of-way)	76	85	86	91	
Dirt (including right-of-way)	72	82	87	89	
Western desert urban areas:					
Natural desert landscaping (pervious areas only) ⁴	63	77	85	88	
Artificial desert landscaping (impervious weed barrier, desert shrub with 1- to 2-inch sand or gravel mulch and basin borders)	96	96	96	96	
Urban districts:					
Commercial and business	85	89	92	94	95
Industrial	72	81	88	91	93
Residential districts by average lot size:					
1/8 acre or less (town houses)	65	77	85	90	92
1/4 acre	38	61	75	83	87
1/3 acre	30	57	72	81	86
1/2 acre	25	54	70	80	85
1 acre	20	51	68	79	84
2 acres	12	46	65	77	82
<i>Developing urban areas</i>					
Newly graded areas (pervious areas only, no vegetation) ⁵					
		77	86	91	94
Idle lands (CN's are determined using cover types similar to those in table 2.2c).					

The SCS (NRCS) curve number method presented in TR-55 (and also used in WinTR-55 and many stormwater models) is the most common urban hydrology method used in the US. Typical curve number (CN) values for urban areas are shown on this table from TR-55. The same curve number is used for all storms in a given area.

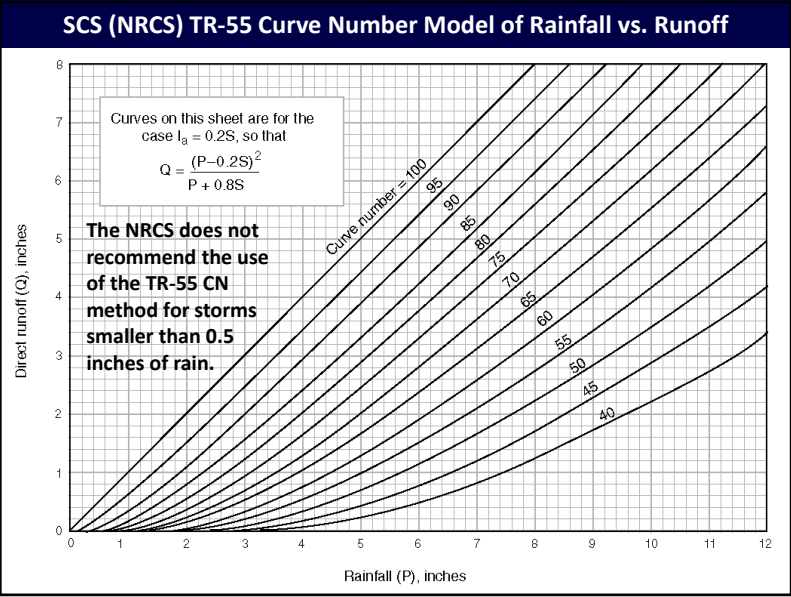
¹ Average runoff condition, and $I_a = 0.2S$.

² The average percent impervious area shown was used to develop the composite CN's. Other assumptions are as follows: impervious areas are directly connected to the drainage system; impervious areas have a CN of 98; and pervious areas are considered equivalent to open space in good hydrologic condition. CN's for other combinations of conditions may be computed using figure 2.3 or 2.4.

³ CN's shown are equivalent to those of pasture. Composite CN's may be computed for other combinations of open space cover types.

⁴ Composite CN's for natural desert landscaping should be computed using figures 2.3 or 2.4 based on the impervious area percentage (CN = 96) and the pervious area CN. The pervious area CN's are assumed equivalent to desert shrub in poor hydrologic condition.

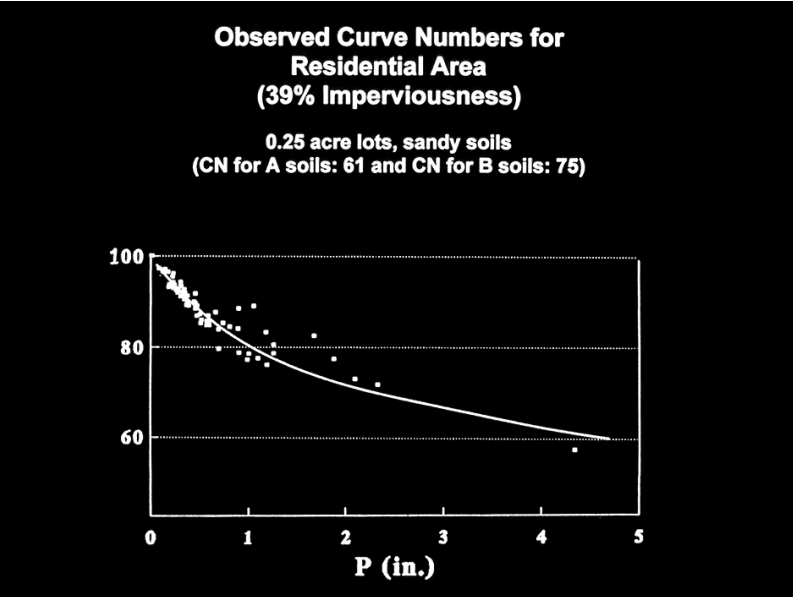
⁵ Composite CN's to use for the design of temporary measures during grading and construction should be computed using figure 2.3 or 2.4 based on the degree of development (impervious area percentage) and the CN's for the newly graded pervious areas.



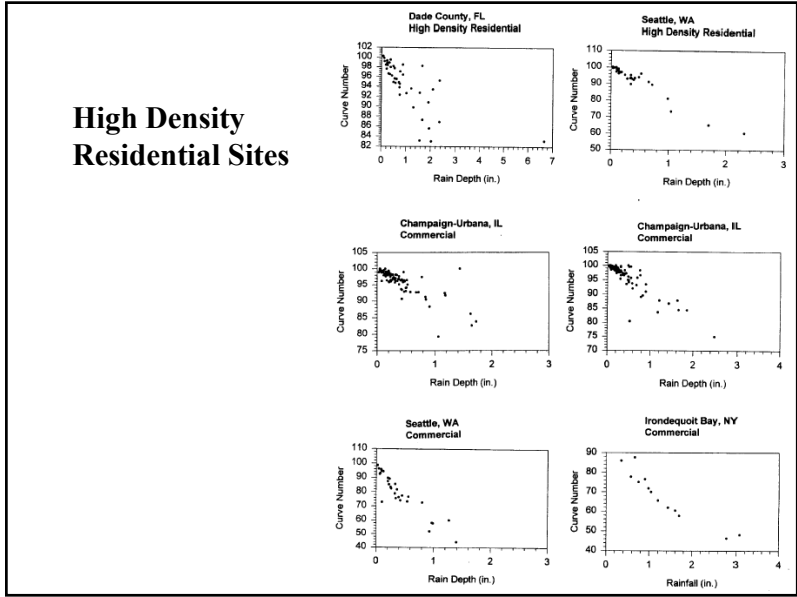
The following equation can be used to calculate the actual NRCS curve number (CN) from observed rainfall depth (P) and runoff depth (Q), both expressed in inches:

$$CN = 1000 / [10 + 5P + 10Q - 10(Q^2 + 1.25QP)^{1/2}]$$

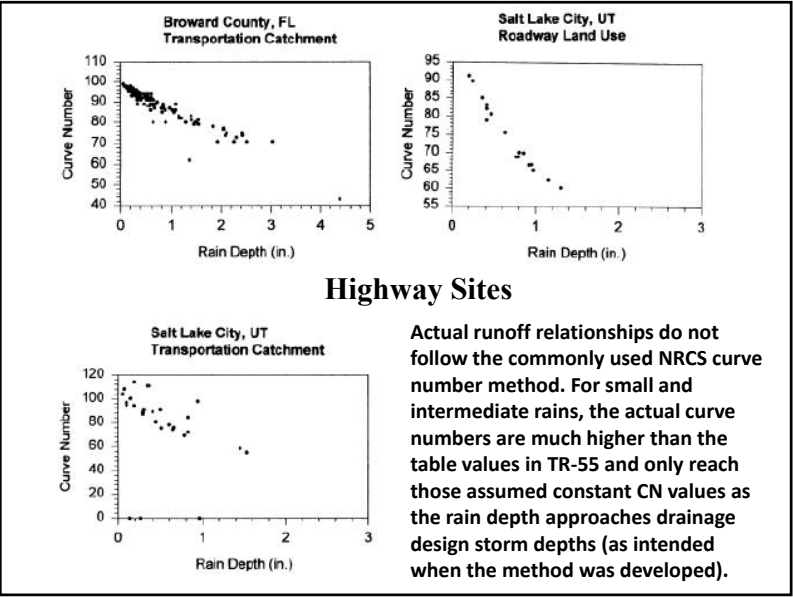
The following example plots use rainfall and runoff data from the EPA's NURP projects in the early 1980s (EPA 1983), and from the EPA's rainfall-runoff-quantity data base (Huber, *et al.* 1982).



29



30

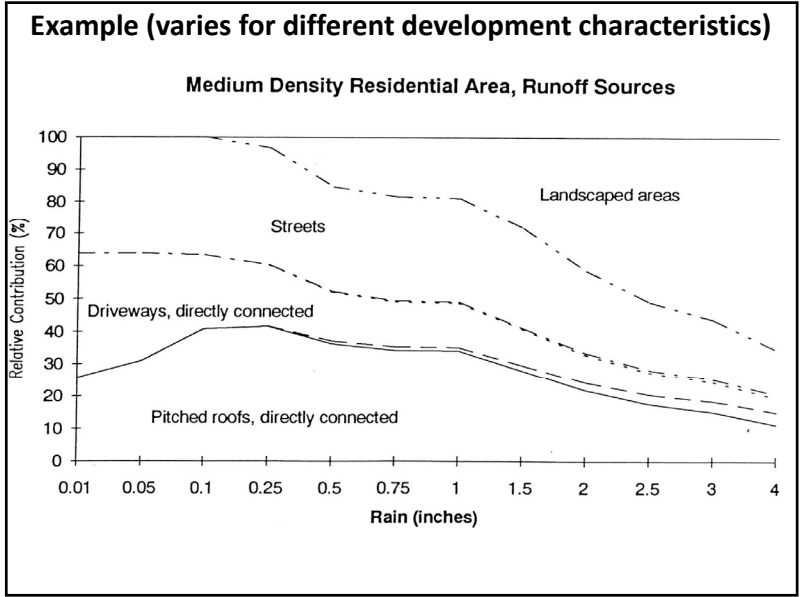


31

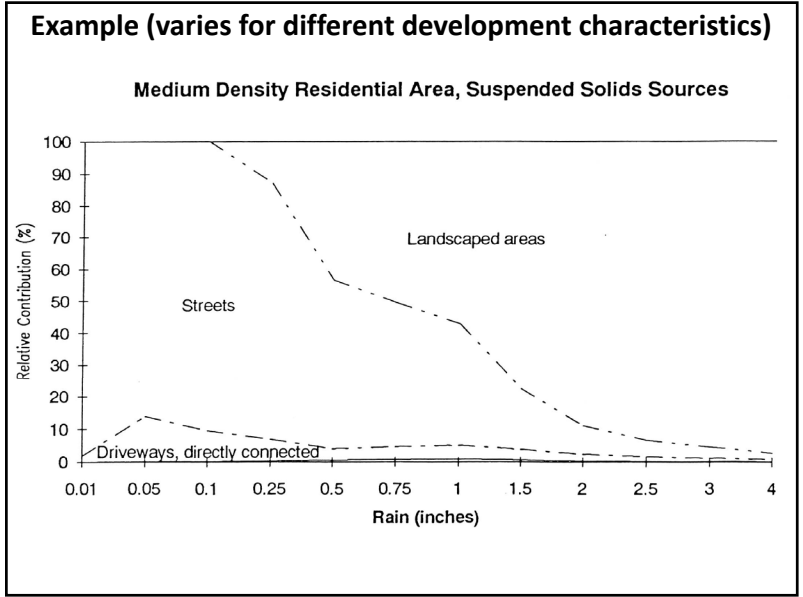
Knowing the Runoff Volume is the Key to Estimating Pollutant Mass

- There is usually a simple relationship between rain depth and runoff depth.
- Changes in rain depth affect the relative contributions of runoff and pollutant mass discharges:
 - Directly connected impervious areas contribute most of the flows during relatively small rains
 - Disturbed urban soils may dominate during larger rains

32



33



34

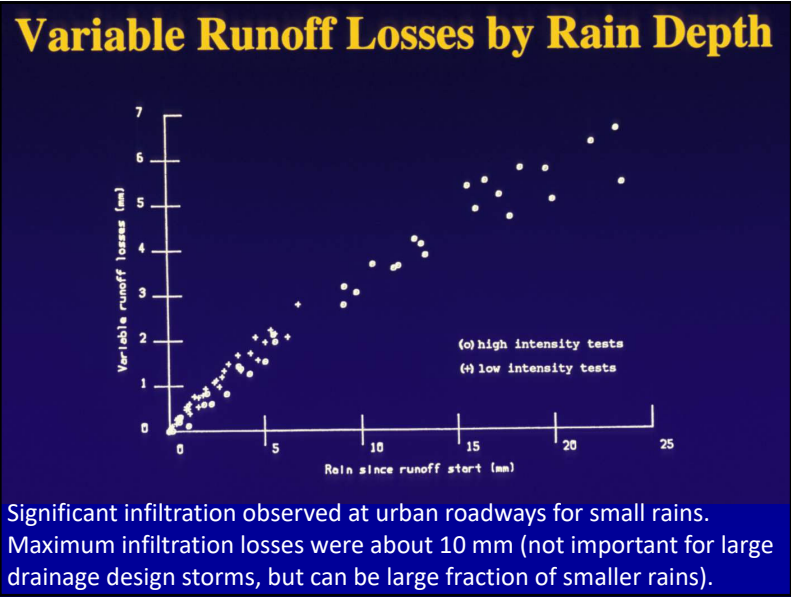
Pavement Hydrology

Monitoring was conducted at many different scales, from several hectare isolated paved parking areas (and roofs) to smaller controlled areas.

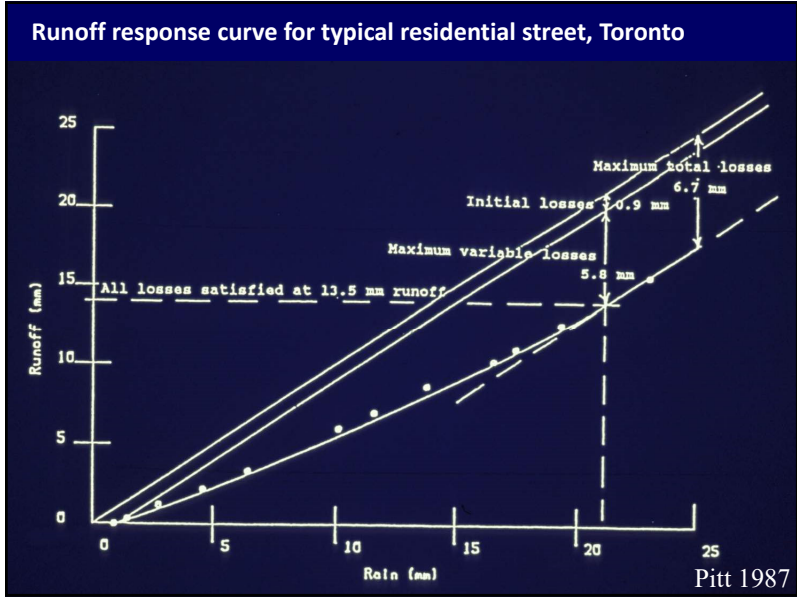
35



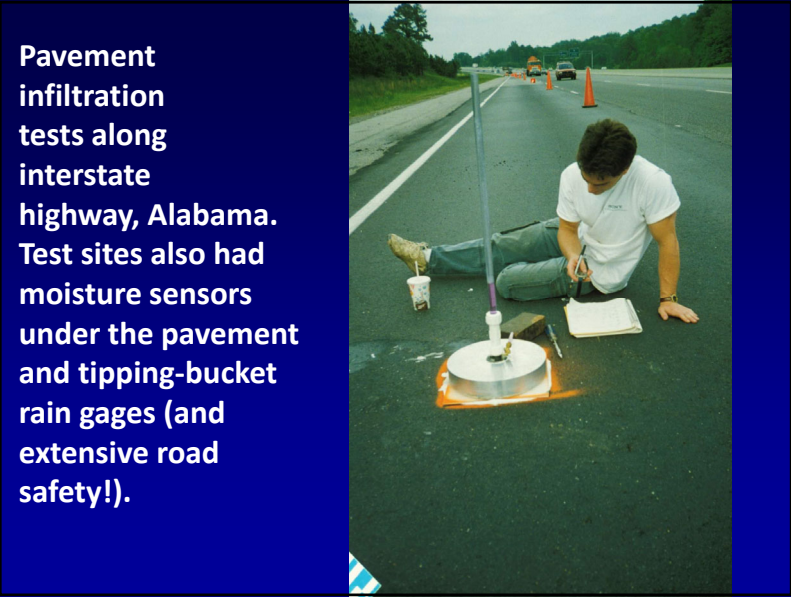
36



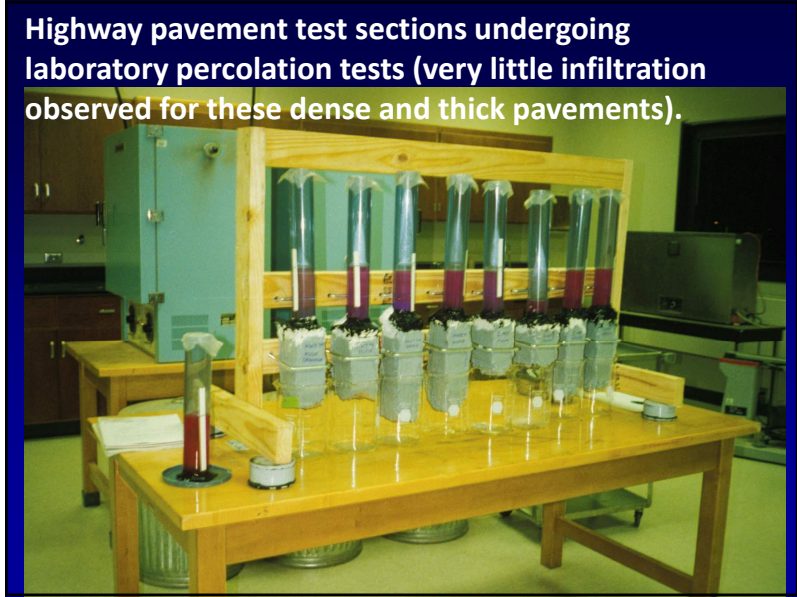
37



38



39



40

Infiltration Characteristics in Compacted Urban Soils

Tests were conducted at many different scales at non-paved areas also.

41

Ponding during very intense rain in area having sandy soils (sandy soil area even had storm drain inlet).

42

Disturbing urban soils during land development totally mess up the natural soil structure

43

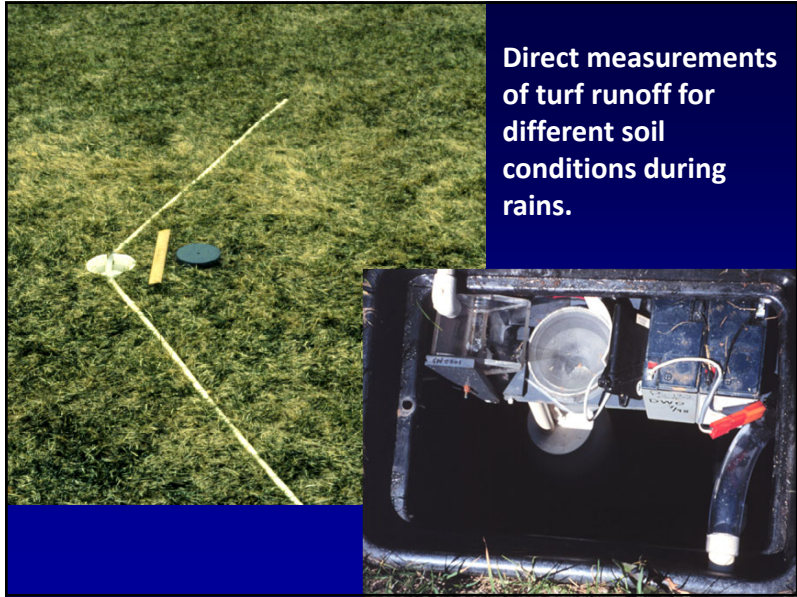
One type of infiltration test: Double-Ring Infiltrometer – ASTM D3385 (we typically have used clusters of small Turf-Tec double-ring infiltrimeters to measure local variability)

Currently we rely more on larger trench and borehole tests that have less edge effects and better correspond to conditions that occur during actual rains.

44



45

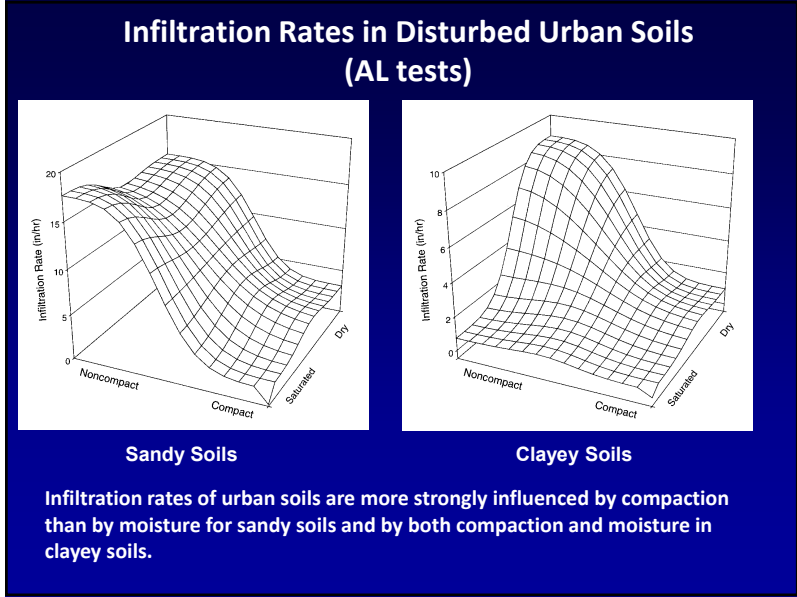


46

Field Infiltration Tests

- Previous research identified significant reductions in infiltration rates in disturbed urban soils.
- More than 150 tests were conducted in predominately sandy and clayey urban soils in the Birmingham and Mobile, Alabama, areas.

47



48

Infiltration Rates during Tests of Disturbed Urban Soils

	Number of tests	Average infiltration rate (mm/hr)	COV
Noncompacted sandy soils	36	330	0.4
Compacted sandy soils	39	36	1.3
Noncompacted and dry clayey soils	18	250	1.5
All other clayey soils (compacted and dry, plus all wetter conditions)	60	5	2.4

49

Laboratory Infiltration Rate Tests for Different Soil Mixtures and Compaction

- These lab tests were run for up to 20 days, although most were completed (when steady low rates were observed) within 3 or 4 days.
- Initial soil moisture levels were about 8% (sand was about 3%), while the moisture levels after the tests ranged from about 20 to 45%.
- Three methods were used to compact the test specimens: hand compaction, plus two Proctor test methods.
- Both Modified and Standard Proctor Compactions follow ASTM standard (D 1140-54).

50

Laboratory Column Tests

The media layer was about 0.5 m (1.5 ft) thick.

Four liters of challenge water was poured into each lab column that was filled with one of the media mixtures. Clean water was used for the flow test.

The surface ponding depths in the columns ranged between 28 cm (11 in.) and 36 cm (14 in.) to correspond to the approximate maximum ponding depths at biofilters.



Effluent samples were collected from the bottom of the columns at the beginning, middle, and end of the drainage time and composted in clean 1 L bottles for the lab analyses.

51

Compaction Methods

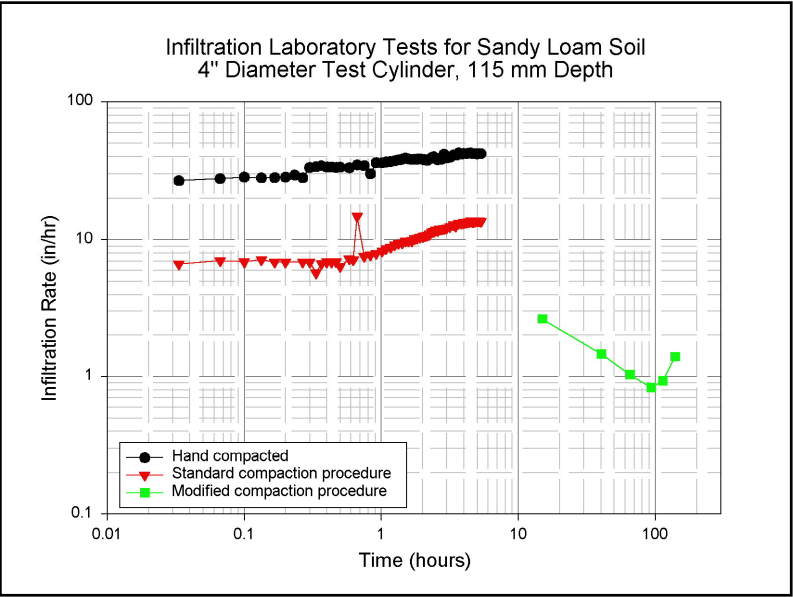
- Hand compaction (gentle hand pressing to force the soil into the column section with as little compaction as possible),
- Standard Proctor Compaction (24.4 kN hammer dropped 25 times from 300 mm on each of 3 soil layers).
- Modified Proctor Compaction (44.5 kN hammer dropped 25 times from 460 mm on each of 5 soil layers).

52

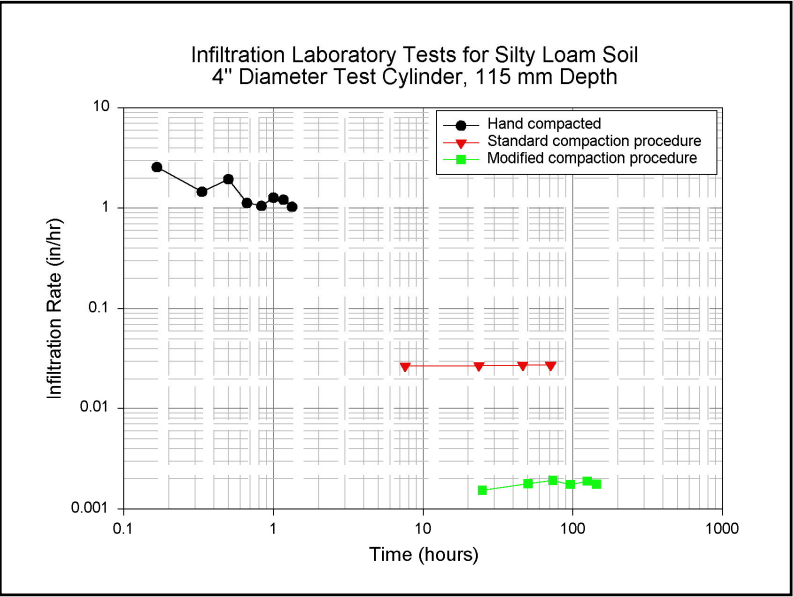
15 Test Mixtures used in Laboratory Tests

	Sand	Clay	Silt	Sandy loam	Clayey loam	Silty loam	Clay mix
% sand	100			72.1	30.1	19.4	30
% clay		100		9.2	30.0	9.7	50
% silt			100	18.7	39.9	70.9	20

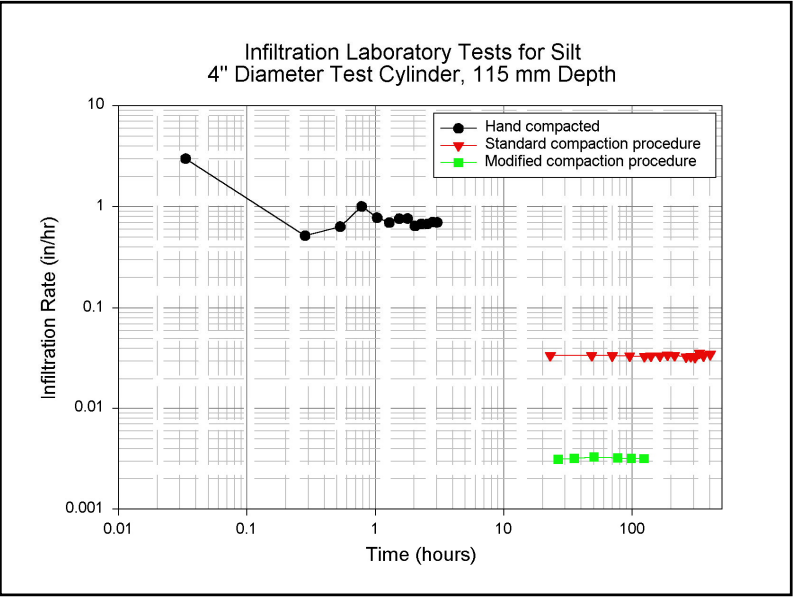
53

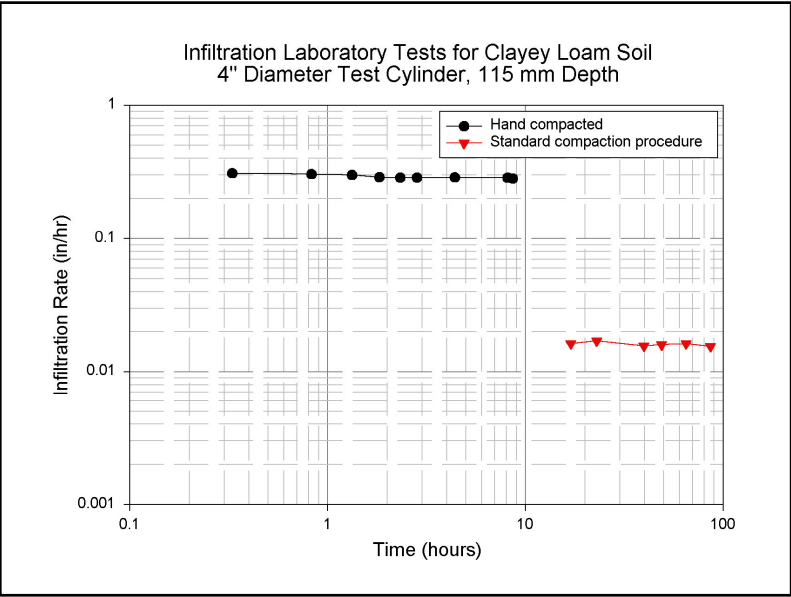


54



55





57

Example Long-Term Sustainable Average Infiltration Rates

Soil Texture	Compaction Method	Dry Bulk Density (g/cc)	Effects on Root Growth (per NRCS)	Long-term Average Infiltr. Rate (mm/hr)
Sand	Hand	1.451	Ideal	Very high
	Standard	1.494	Ideal	Very high
	Modified	1.620	May affect -	2,000
Silt	Hand	1.508	May affect	450
	Standard	1.680	May affect +	23
	Modified	1.740	Restrict	2.0
Clay	Hand	1.241	May affect	76
	Standard	n/a	n/a	0
	Modified	n/a	n/a	0

58

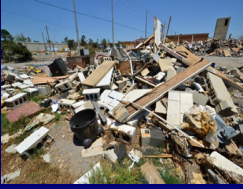

Long-Term Sustainable Average Infiltration Rates (cont.)

Soil Texture	Compaction Method	Dry Bulk Density (g/cc)	Effects on Root Growth (per NRCS)	Long-term Average Infiltr. Rate (mm/hr)
Sandy Loam	Hand	1.595	May Affect	900
	Standard	1.653	May Affect	230
	Modified	1.992	Restrict	38
Silt Loam	Hand	1.504	May Affect	33
	Standard	1.593	May Affect	0.7
	Modified	1.690	May Affect +	0.04
Clay Loam	Hand	1.502	May Affect	7.4
	Standard	1.703	Restrict	0.38
	Modified	1.911	Restrict	0

59

Stormwater Bioinfiltration Site Studies in Tuscaloosa Areas Devastated by Tornado

- The test sites are all located adjacent to fire hydrants for easy access to large quantities of water and are located in the city's right-of-way.
- A 1 m diameter auger was used to drill holes about 1 to 1.5 m ft deep.
- An approximate 1.5 to 2 m length of Sonotube was inserted in the bore holes to maintain structural integrity and had a several cm layer of coarse gravel placed on the bottom to protect the native soil.






Bore Hole Drilling, Double-ring and Bore Hole Infiltration Measurement Installations (Intersection of 21st Ave. E. and University Blvd E).

60

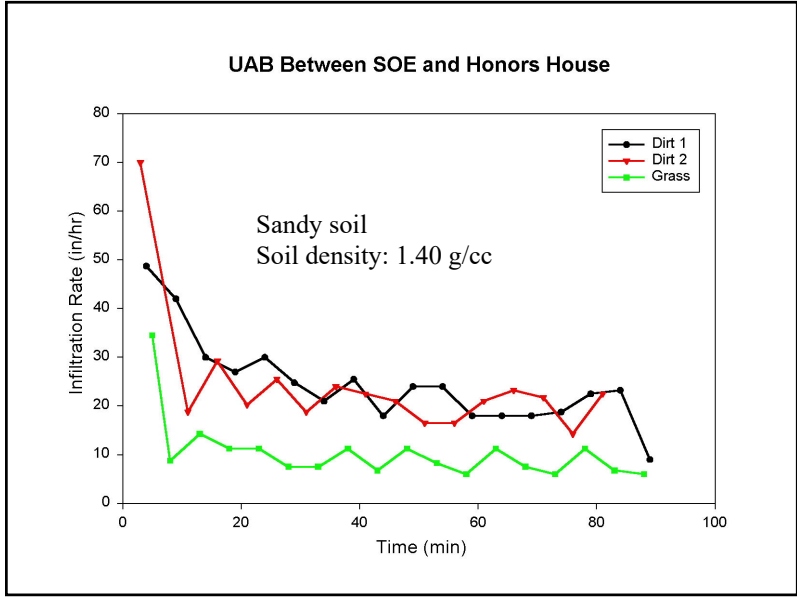
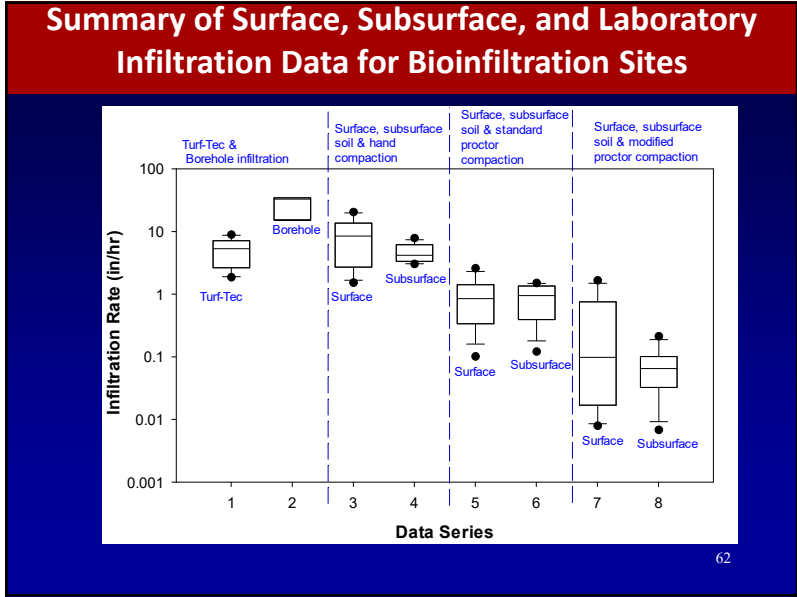
Field Tests for Stormwater Bioinfiltration Construction Sites, Cont'd

- During the tests, these bore holes were filled with water from the fire hydrants and the water elevations were measured with time until the infiltration rates reached an approximate steady rate.
- The effects of different compaction levels on the infiltration rates through the soil (obtained at the surface and subsurface locations at the test sites) were examined during laboratory column experiments.

Bore Hole Drilling, Double-ring and Bore Hole Infiltration Measurement Installations (Intersection of 21st Ave. E. and University Blvd E).

61





65



66



67

Amended Soil Compared to Unamended Soil

Constituent	Surface Runoff Mass Discharges	Subsurface Flow Mass Discharges
Runoff Volume	0.09	0.29
Phosphate	0.62	3.0
Ammonia	0.56	4.4
Nitrate	0.28	1.5
Copper	0.33	1.2
Zinc	0.061	0.18

68

Water Quality and Quantity Effects of Amending Urban Soils with Compost

- Surface runoff rates and volumes decreased by five to ten times after amending the soils with compost, compared to unamended sites.
- Unfortunately, the concentrations of many pollutants increased in surface runoff from amended soils, especially nutrients which were leached from the fresh compost.
- However, the several year old test sites had less, but still elevated concentrations, compared to unamended soil only test plots.

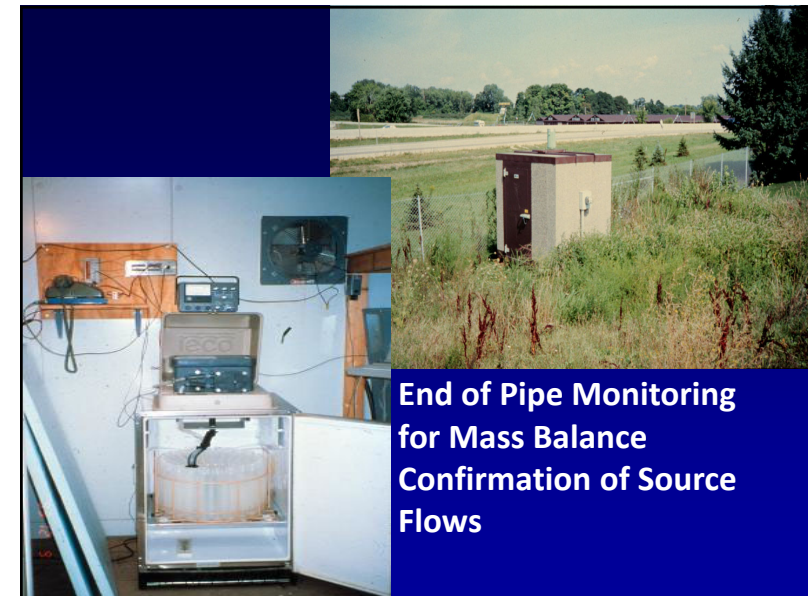
69

Sources of Stormwater Flows and Pollutants; Field Monitoring

70



71



72



73



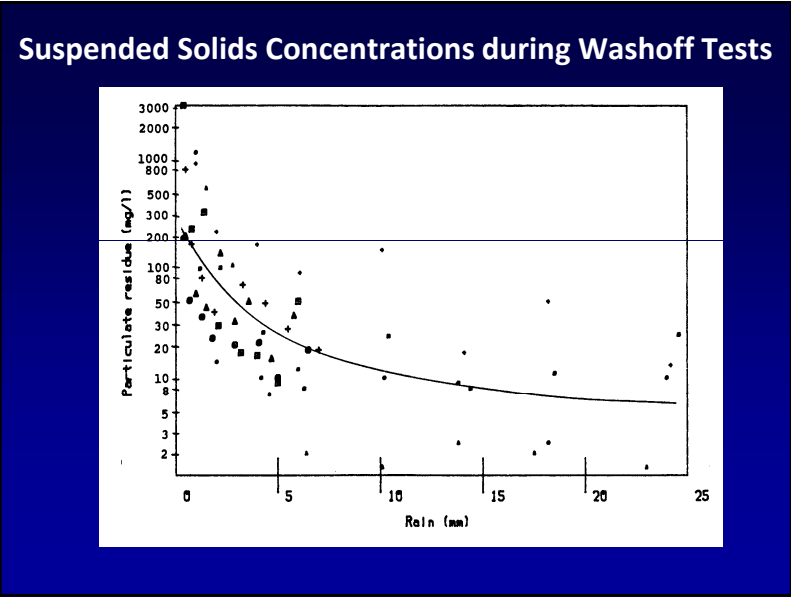
74



75



76

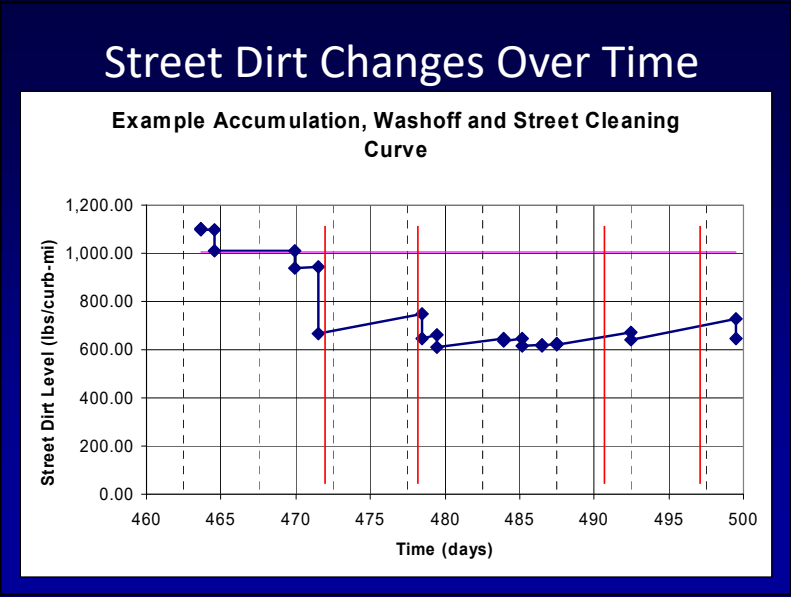


77

Full-scale street cleaning tests using conventional and high-energy street cleaners (street dirt loading and washoff monitoring and outfall water quality monitoring) (WI DNR and USGS)

A collage of images related to street cleaning tests. It includes several aerial maps of urban street grids with specific areas highlighted in green. Interspersed with the maps are photographs of street cleaning equipment: a white truck with a high-pressure spray system, a white street sweeper, and a white truck with a large rotating brush. The text on the left side of the collage describes the testing procedures and monitoring agencies involved.

78



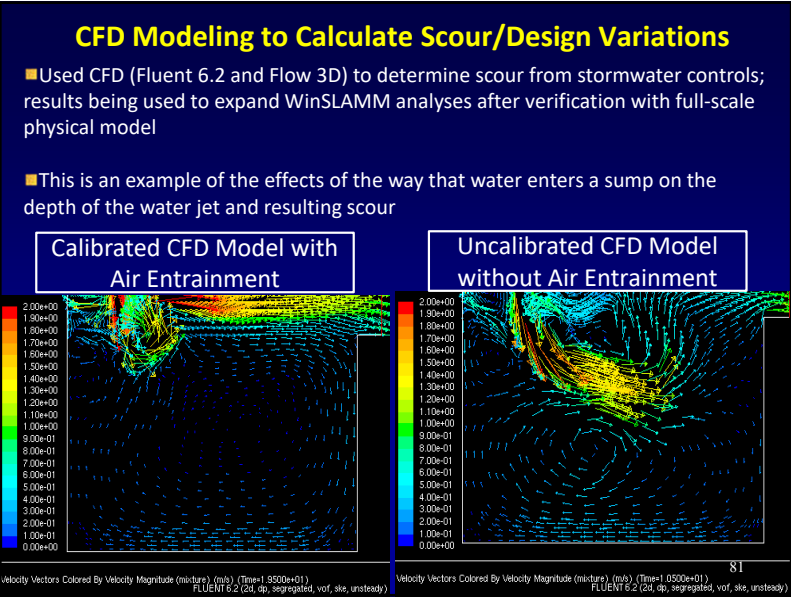
79

Scour of Captured Sediment in Catchbasins

- Three flow rates: 10, 5, and 2.5 LPS (160, 80, and 40 GPM)
- Velocity measurements (V_x , V_y , and V_z)
- Five overlying water depths above the sediment: 16, 36, 56, 76, and 96 cm

Images illustrating the experimental setup for sediment scour in catchbasins. One image shows a person operating a flow tank where water is poured into a catchbasin. Another image shows a circular grid of measurement points (numbered 1-15) overlaid on a catchbasin. A third image shows a white truck with a catchbasin attached, parked outdoors. The text on the left lists the specific flow rates, velocity measurements, and water depths used in the tests.

80



81

TSS vs. SSC and PSD Relationships

Two separate issues:

- sampling to obtain representative water samples and
- laboratory processing to represent all particles.

Most problems result in loss of large particles. The combination of methods used affects modeling approach, especially the particle size distributions.

82

Sampling Effects on Particulate Solids Characteristics

- Sampling issues associated with stratified flows and bedload.
 - Sampler intakes on bottom of pipe may collect more bedload than represented in well-mixed sample, and
 - sampler tube velocity may not be able to transport large particles to sample bottles

These are two opposite problems that seldom cancel each other out nicely.

83

Results of Verification Monitoring of Popular Hydrodynamic Separator by USGS and WI NDR (Madison, WI)

Sampled solids load in	1623 kg
Sampled solids load out	1218 kg
Trapped by difference	405 kg (25% removal)
Actual trapped total sediment	536 kg (33% actual removal)
Fraction total solids not captured by automatic samplers	8% (131 kg missed by sampler, out of 1623 kg in sampler)

Standard automatic water samplers with single intakes at bottom of pipes. Influent samplers are affected by large particles while effluent samplers should not be, assuming the stormwater control is capable of removing the larger particles that stress the samplers.

84

Bed load in storm drainage compromised about 4% of Madison area total solids discharges (WI DNR and USGS) monitoring).

85

Bedload in corrugated stormdrain and mound of settleable material at discharge into wet detention pond after many years of operation at ski resort at Snowmass, CO (drain from several acre resort parking area having sand applications for traction control).

86

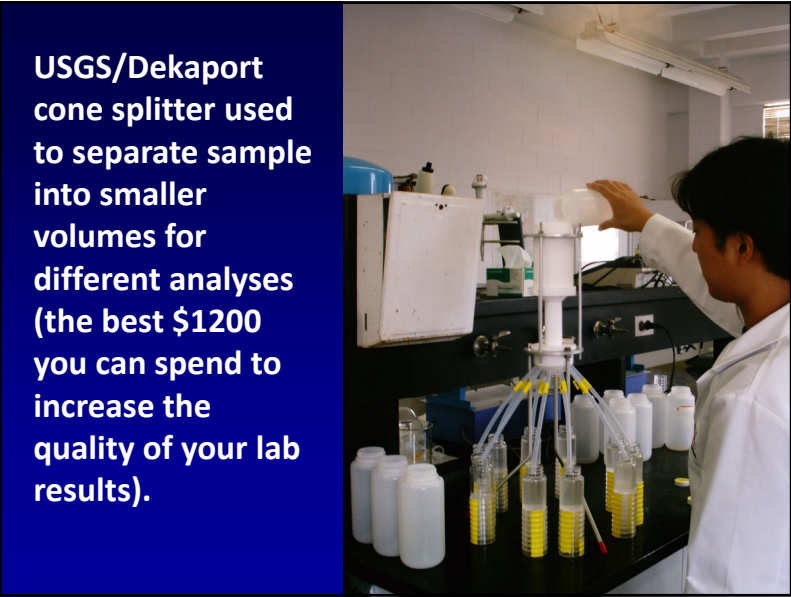
Simple methods to obtain representative sample: create cascading and well-mixed flow at sampling location (well-mixed flow with bedload and no stratification). Examples shown for gutter and pipe flow installations.

87

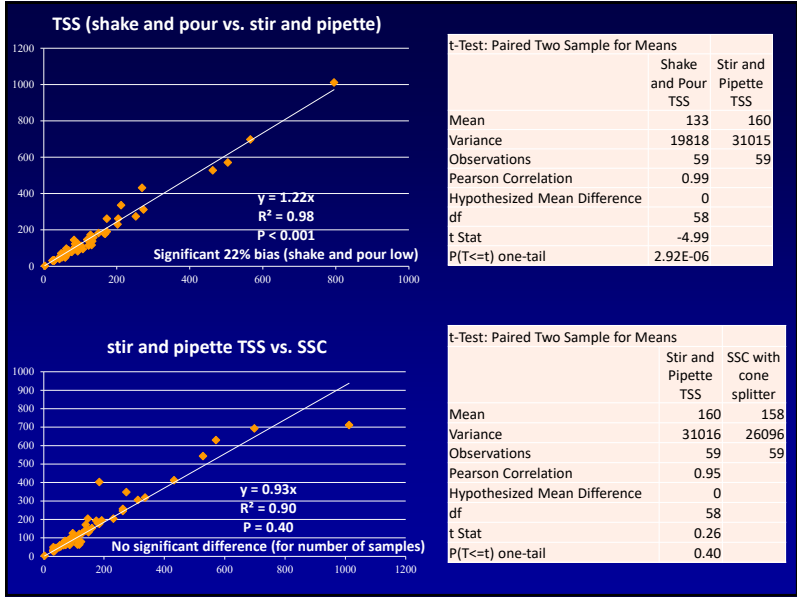
Comparison of Three TSS/SSC Analytical Methods

EPA TSS 160.2 Shake sample bottle vigorously then pour aliquot into graduated cylinder	Standard Methods TSS 2540D Use stir plate and wide bore pipet at mid-depth in bottle and midway between wall and vortex	USGS SSC D3977-97B Use entire sample and pour from original bottle
---	--	---

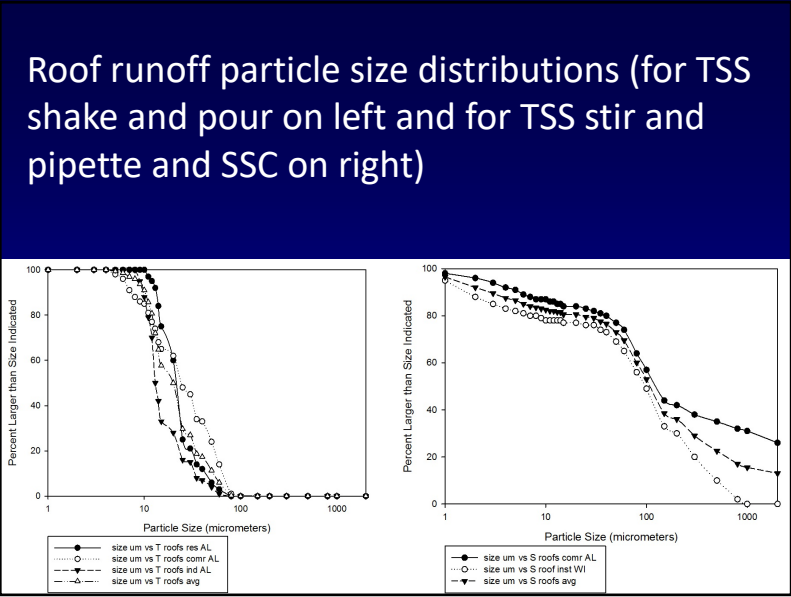
88



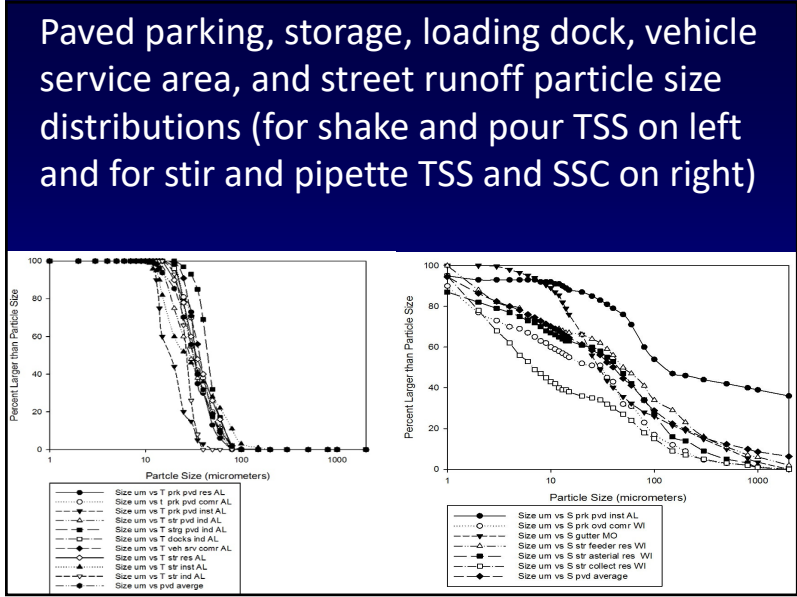
89



90

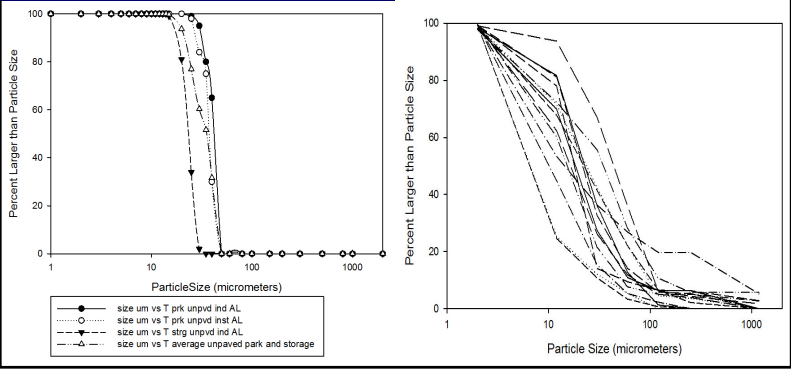


91



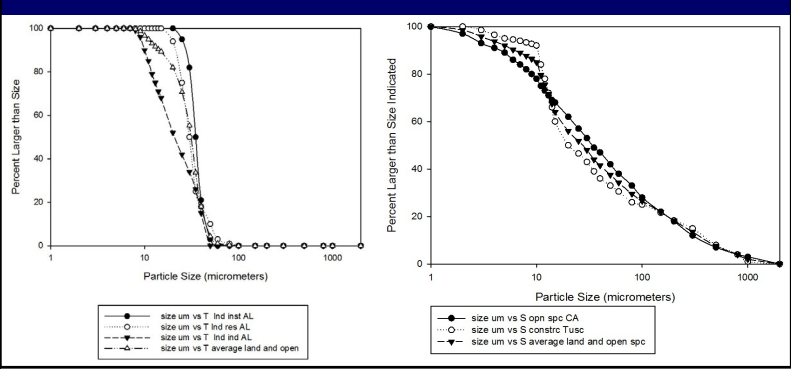
92

Non-paved parking and storage area runoff particle size distributions (for shake and pour TSS on left; SSC on right)



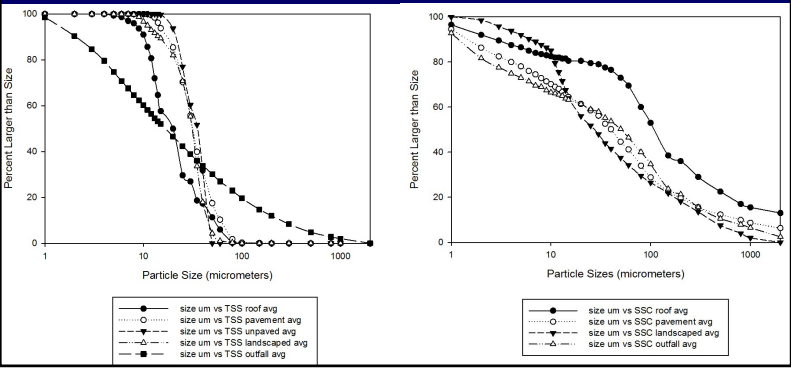
93

Landscaped, open space, and construction site runoff particle size distributions (for shake and pour TSS on left and for stir and pipette TSS and SSC on right)



94

Average particle size distributions for different source area categories (for shake and pour TSS on left and for stir and pipette and SSC on right)



95

Summary and Conclusions

- Beijing has highly seasonal rains with long interevent periods. Literature suggests nutrient discharges are the greatest concern. First flush investigations of local stormwater, and sources of stormwater pollutants are also described in the literature. Desire to use distributed infiltration to reduce discharges.
- Much data are available in the NSQD that has been used to understand stormwater characteristics, mainly land use and geographical influences.
- First flushes are not consistent for all land uses and pollutants. Most important for simple drainages that are mostly paved; less obvious for complex drainages with separate source areas.
- Beijing drainage design events indicate a significant trend across the city, with more severe conditions to the east.

96

Summary and Conclusions, cont.

- Conventional drainage design approaches do not work well for the smaller rains that are of most significance in annual pollutant and flow discharges.
- Most of the Beijing rains (by number) are less than 10 mm in depth, while those rains only result in about 10% of the annual runoff. About 80% of the runoff occurs for rains less than 70 mm in depth.
- Pavement hydrology measurements indicate that substantial fractions of smaller rains can infiltrate through typical city streets, while bed compacted and thicker pavements have no appreciable infiltration losses.
- Disturbed urban soils have much less infiltration than expected due to typical compaction.

97

Summary and Conclusions, cont.

- Small-scale monitoring should be used to verify performance characteristics of stormwater controls, and large-scale monitoring is needed to verify their usefulness when applied throughout an area.
- Different sampling and laboratory methods for solids analyses can result in different particle size distributions which affect calculations pertaining to stormwater control performance.

98