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How to Choose Better Stormwater BMPs

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Abstract:

Which best management practices (BMPs) are most effective? How does one BMP compare to another in controlling specific pollutants? Which BMP should I choose to protect my local waterbody? Is this BMP going to be more or less cost-effective over the long term?

These are all important questions that stormwater professionals have been debating and discussing for a long time. Not too many years ago, it was relatively easy to find opinions on these topics, but much more difficult to find hard facts. Today, the science of stormwater management has advanced to the point where it can at least begin to answer some of these questions and, ultimately, help us choose better BMPs. This article focuses on the performance of permanent, or post-construction, BMPs that treat or control urban stormwater.

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