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FOREWORD

As Collierville continues to grow and expand its developed area, the impact of the increased number of rooftops, streets, and deforested areas on the Town's drainage system become ever more dramatic. From localized street and yard flooding to streams that are experiencing high rates of erosion – witness the loss of streambank trees and neighborhood fences and backyards – the cumulative effects of development can be visibly significant. However, if proper consideration is given to the design, construction, and maintenance of stormwater facilities the Town needn't lose excessive amounts of soil, trees, residential fences, and the like.

Floodplain matters, too, impact the life of the Town. Since the early 1970's, the Town has participated with the federal government in the National Flood Insurance Program, which is beneficial to the Town and its residents. Participation, however, places certain obligations on the Town, and it affects the development patterns as well.

The Town is designated as an "MS4", which basically means that it is under an unfunded mandate from the federal EPA through the state government to control the pollution, mainly from sediment, of the state's waters. To comply with these requirements, the Town has implemented a fairly extensive stormwater program to manage it.

All of these issues are considerably inter-related and can become complicated. To try to help those cut through the fog, we have assembled this booklet that contains most of the background information that, it is hoped, will be of assistance. Sections on issues from drainage systems to pollution to FEMA have been written by Town staff and are accompanied by photos – many of local sites – and diagrams. Finally, we have included a list of questions that you might find helpful. These questions can be asked of most any project, and they might guide you in understanding the approach the Town staff takes in analyzing a given project.

Thank you for taking your valuable time to read and review this booklet. We hope you find this helpful. As always, the Engineering staff is available for any questions you might have about the Stormwater Management booklet.

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