

Types of Development Standards: Performance vs. Design

When granting a conditional use permit, the permit review body may require the applicant to develop a construction or facility operation plan to meet specified performance standards (i.e. meet with land conservation staff to develop an erosion control plan that contains all runoff/sediment on the site). Performance standards are not unique to conditional uses. General performance and specific design standards are contrasted below:

Performance Standard

Example: Projects may not result in an increase in stormwater discharge which exceeds predevelopment conditions.

Features:

- The expected results are stated.
- The project may be “custom tailored” to the site.
- It requires more technical expertise to design and evaluate a proposal.
- It involves more complex project monitoring and enforcement.
- It provides an opportunity for optimal compliance/performance.

Design Standard

Example: Each lot shall provide 500 cubic feet of stormwater storage.

Features:

- Project specifications are stated.
- It is easy to understand, administer, and enforce.
- It provides little flexibility and so may result in many variance requests.
- It may not achieve ordinance objectives in all cases.