

EPA SCORECARD, A CATALYST FOR UNIFIED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, A CASE STUDY

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Abstract. Chattanooga has completed their EPA Water Quality Scorecard and is using the analysis as a tool to shape the direction of policies, codes, tools, and standards.

The Scorecard has put a spot light on the process of land development and its inseparable relationship to watershed management. The completion of the new on-line Rainwater Management Manual is a core product and that has been shaped by the Scorecard. This tool has been integrated with new plan review and approval process.

Chattanooga is using the scorecard as a vehicle to guide future improvements in City policy and codes that can better support implementation of the new stormwater management program and a sustainable community. This has resulted in a complete rewrite of the existing stormwater management code as well as revisions to numerous other codes to remove conflicts or unsupportive requirements.

The Scorecard has also initiated the development of a more comprehensive and intelligent GIS that identifies socio-economic as well as environmental opportunities and constraints. These are being applied by the regional planning agency to guide the development of regional plans and a unified development code.

This presentation by City staff and their consultant team provides insights into the effective use of the scorecard; its value and its limitations as well as a discussion of lesson learned, specific policies, codes, and standards affected and either changed or recommended to be changed.