



SIGNS OF EROSION

Dust clouds

Accumulated soil along fences

Drifted appearance of the soil

Rills and channels in the soil

Soil deposits at slope bases

Sediment in streams, lakes, and
Reservoirs

Gullies

Poor plant growth

Exposed tree roots, stones, and
rocks

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www.jacksonville-al.org

**Alabama Department of
Environmental Management**



SOIL EROSION



**City of Jacksonville, Alabama
Phase II Small MS4
ADEM NPDES Permit No. ALR040051**



Introduction

Soil Erosion is the deterioration of soil by the physical movement of soil particles from a given site. Wind, water, ice, animals, and the use of tools by man are usually the main causes of soil erosion. It is a natural process which usually does not cause any major problems. It becomes a problem when human activity causes it to occur much faster than under normal conditions.

Where does soil erosion go?

Much of the eroded soil is deposited in either low areas of the field or it eventually enters drainage ditches, streams or rivers. Soil that enters a watercourse reduces water quality, reduces the efficiency of drainage systems and the storage capacity of lakes. Soil that settles in water systems is called sediment. Accumulation of sediment often requires that it be cleared out manually, which costs money. Sediment fills rivers and reservoirs and reduces their capacity to hold flood waters. Sediment is considered to be a major pollutant. It can inhibit fish spawning and block the sunlight necessary to plant life. Increased runoff of chemical and nutrients must be removed for water to be safe to drink.



Do your part to minimize soil erosion by:

Four ways to prevent soil erosion.

1. Vegetation can be planted to stabilize the soil.
2. Geotextiles can be used on the soil. When used in conjunction with growing vegetation it is even more effective.
3. Mulch/ Fertilizer applied to the soil to slowly soak up water, protects against rain impact and restores pH levels.
4. Retaining walls can be built around the area of erosion to prevent water runoff, which leads to erosion.