

Application of Wetlands for Nutrient Polishing in Urban Environments



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(Constructed) wetlands have been used to treat many types of stormwater runoff

Streets, parking lots: Suspended solids, heavy metals (organics, nutrients)

Roads, highways: Suspended solids, heavy metals (organics, nutrients)

Airports: organics

Golfcourses: organics (herbicides, paints), nutrients (fertilizers)

Greenhouses, nurseries: nutrients, herbicides

Crop fields: nutrients, suspended solids, organics (pesticides)

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Urban applications

Airport runoff

Aircraft de-icing before take-off





London Heathrow, de-icing and runoff waters



Edmonton International Airport runoff waters CW

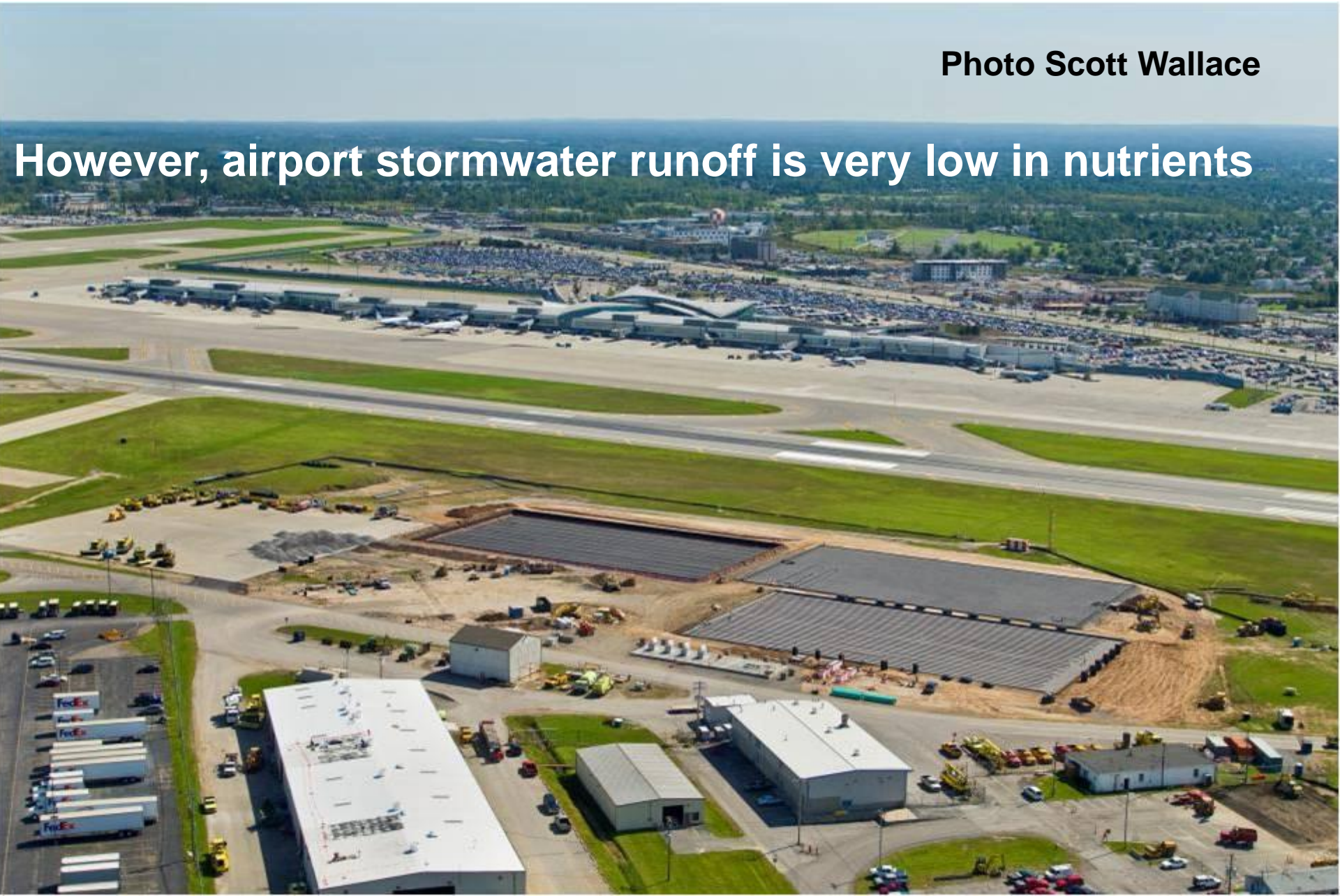


Photo Jim Higgins

Buffalo/Niagara International Airport runoff constructed wetlands

Photo Scott Wallace

However, airport stormwater runoff is very low in nutrients



Golfcourse runoff

**CW for golfcourse runoff,
Charleston, South Carolina, USA**



Felixstowe Ferry Golf Course, United Kingdom



(Photo Alan Baker)

A typical Midwest golfcourse receives, on average per ha/year (Throssell et al. (1995)

7 kg of pesticides, 41 kg N, 4 kg P, 22 kg K

**Purdue University Kampen Golf Course
(Kohler et al., 2004):**

**Golf course area: 27.8 ha, 10.1 ha drained into
created wetland with the area of 1.95 ha**

**Amounts of nutrients applied to 10.1 ha during 1998-
2000: 7304 kg N, 922 kg P, 4582 kg K, 1271 kg S, 4.9
kg Cu, 349 kg Fe, 5.2 kg Mn, 4.8 kg Zn**



**Throssell et al.
(1995)**

Mass flow (mg/s) and treatment efficiency during the storm events (average from 6 storm events):

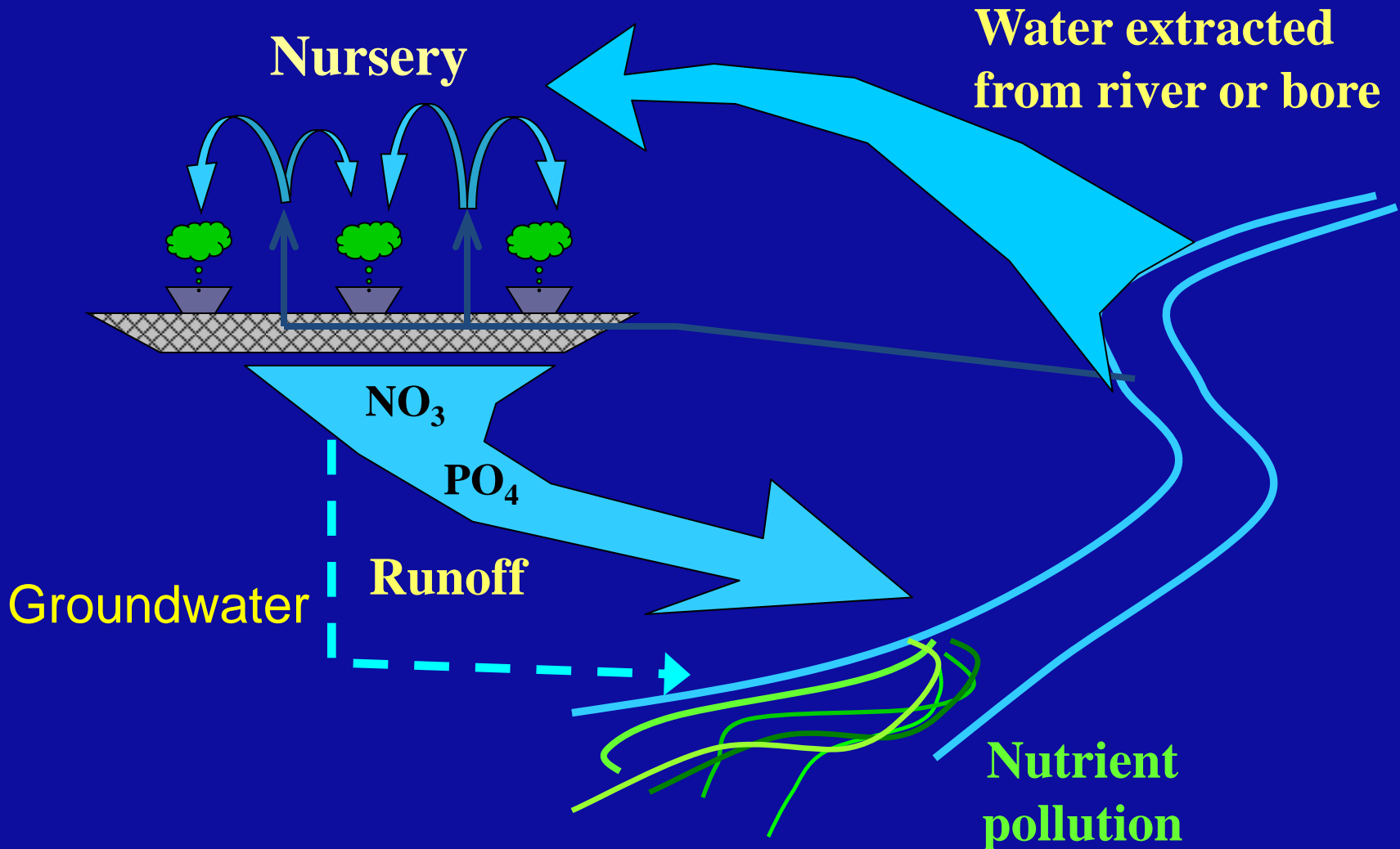
	UI	AWO	GTC	GCO	% removal
N_{ox}-N	8.2	3.2	1.2	0.25	97
NH₄-N	17.9	3.4	0.3	0.0	100
P	2.1	1.24	0.69	0.71	74
COD	1465	330	54	154	90

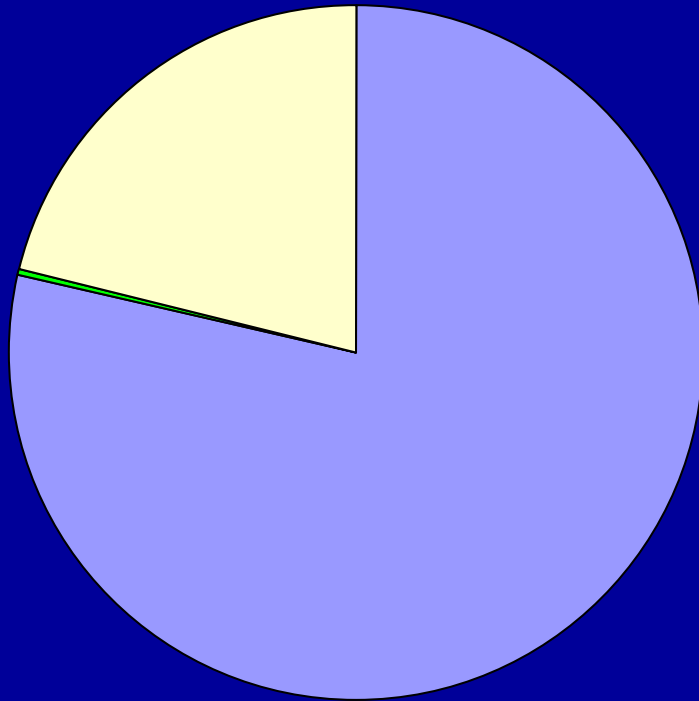
Greenhouse and nursery runoff



Courtesy Tom Headley

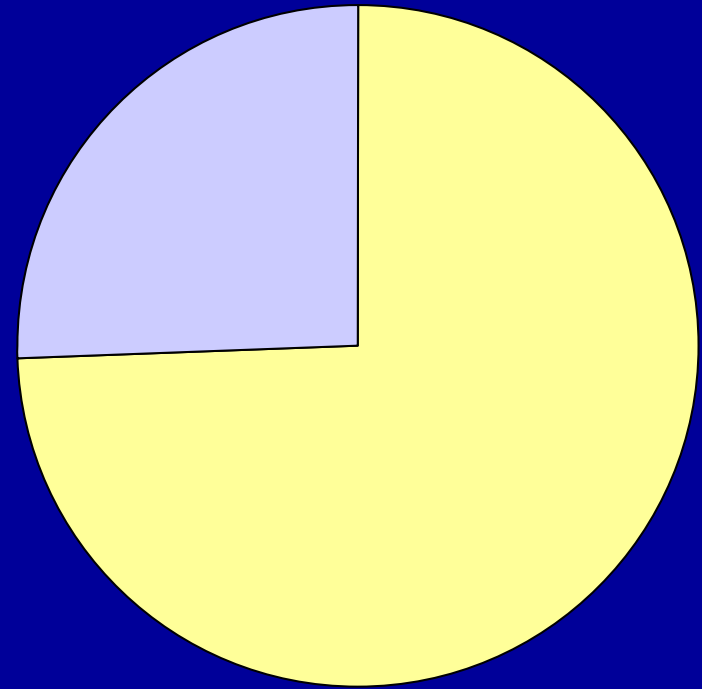
Traditional Open System





■ Nitrate ■ Ammonia ■ Organic N

Total Nitrogen = 10 mg/L
(2.5 - 20)



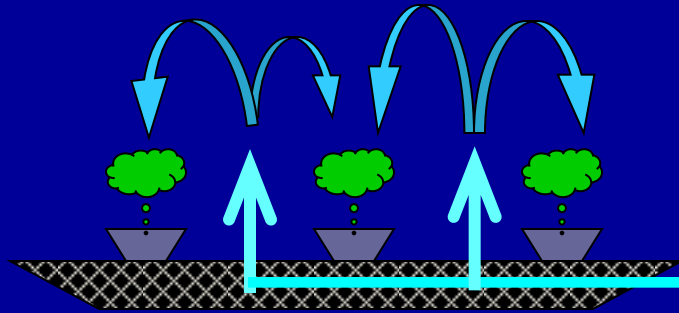
■ Phosphate ■ Organic P

Total Phosphorus = 0.5 mg/L
(0.2 - 1.2)

Concentrations 10x higher where fertigation is practiced

Closed-loop System

Nursery



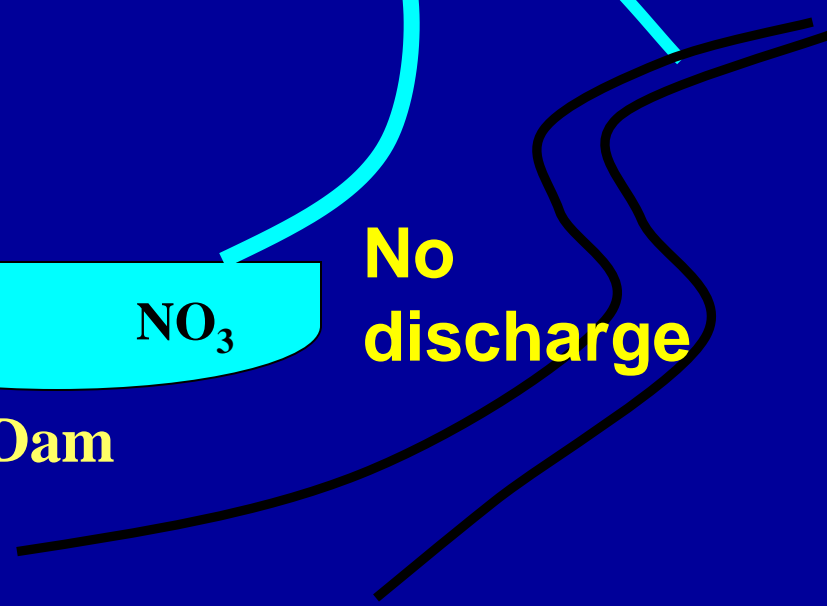
Tank

**Approx. 50% of
irrigation demand
supplied through
recycling**



Dam

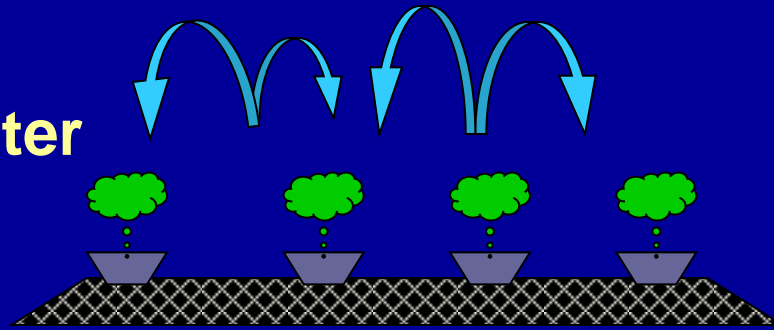
**No
discharge**



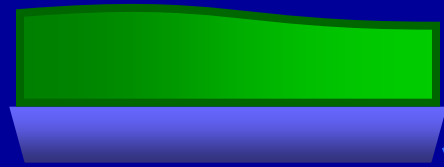


Nursery

Recycled
irrigation water



Irrigation runoff



Treatment in
SSF-CW



Storage dam

Rule of thumb:

reed bed surface area = 4% of the nursery surface area





Residential stormwater runoff

Composition of residential areas stormwater runoff (Kaldec and Knight, 1996)

BOD₅ **3.6 - 20 mg/L**

TSS **18 - 140 mg/L**

TN **1.1 - 2.8 mg/L**

TP **0.14 - 0.51 mg/L**

Average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in the stormwater in the United States (Collins et al., 2010)

	NH ₃ -N	NO _{2,3} -N	TKN	TN
Residential (n=1042)	0.31	0.60	1.5	2.1
Mixed residential (n=611)	0.39	0.57	1.4	2.0
Commercial (n=527)	0.50	0.60	1.5	2.1

Summary for TN inflow/outflow concentrations (mg/L) in various treatment facilities (Collins et al., 2010)

Wet ponds (n = 46)	1.7 / 1.4	Dry ponds (n= 25)	1.2 / 2.1
Green roots (n = 14)	1.3 / 1.8	Bioretention (n = 57)	1.3 / 0.8
Filters (n = 38)	1.3 / 0.8	Wetlands (n = 19)	2.1 / 1.2

Distribution of nitrogen fractions in the urban stormwater in Melbourne, Australia (Taylor et al., 2005)

NO_x	36%
NH₃	12%
DON	28%
PON	24%

Mean concentrations (mg/L) of various nitrogen fractions in stormwater

TN	2.13
TKN	1.39
Org-N	1.10
NO_x	0.74
NH₃	0.29



**Treatment of parking lot runoff,
Charleston, South Carolina, USA**

Native Prairie Rain Garden Project

How to improve our Madison lakes and watershed with native plants.

The Urban Hydrologic Cycle

Rainwater Garden

How to improve our Madison lakes and watershed with native plants.

Agrecol

GRAHAM MARTIN FOUNDATION



Treatment of stormwater runoff in a „Water Garden“, Madison, Wisconsin

Stormwater runoff control buffer zones, Charleston, SC, USA



Shezihlinpi Wetland, Kaohsiung city, Taiwan



Photo Brian Shutes

Zhouzhai wetland Park, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, stormwater



Photo Brian Shutes

**Urban runoff,
Bonnyrigg Park, NWS, Australia**



Constructed wetland with floating emergent macrophytes for stormwater runoff, Bornem, Belgium



Sydney Olympic Park, Australia, stormwater runoff



Courtesy Brian Shutes

Beijing Olympic Park stormwater runoff constructed wetland



Urban runoff, Plumpton Park, NSW, Australia



Built in 1994, wetland area: 0.45 ha, residential catchment: 75 ha, wetland/catchment: 0.006



Plumpton Park

TP

Inflow: 0.19 – 8.01 mg/L

Outflow: 0.04-1.06 mg/L

60% removal

TKN

Inflow: 0.5 – 40.1 mg/L

45% removal

Woodcroft Estate near Sydney, Australia

Built in 1995, Area: 1.5 ha, 53 ha catchment area

Wetland/catchment ratio: 0.028





Woodcroft Estate

TP

Inflow: 0.16 - 1.91 mg/l

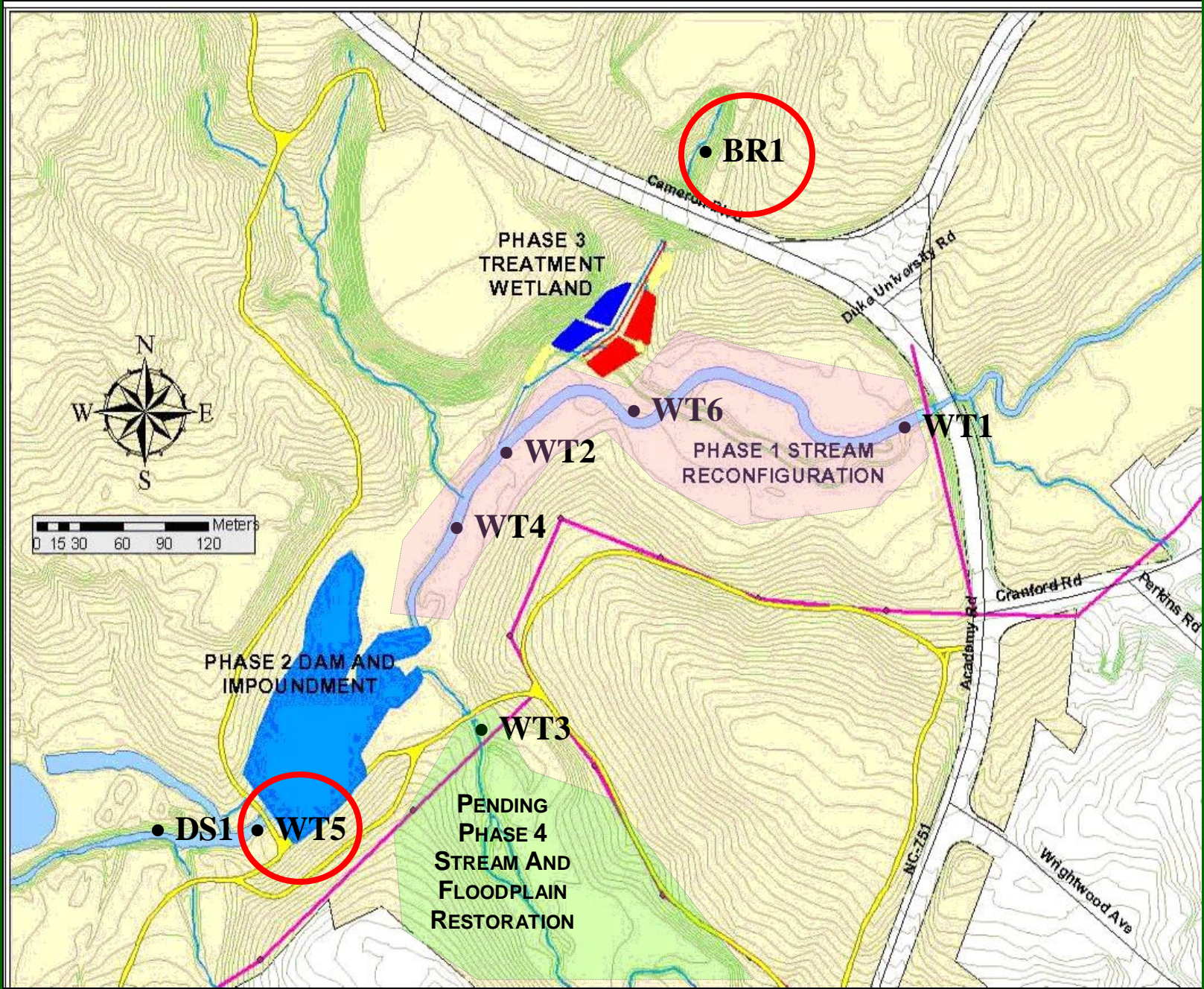
Outflow: 0.1 - 0.96 mg/L

TKN

Inflow: 0.94 - 46.8 mg/L

Outflow: 0.1 – 16.7 mg/L

Duke University Stormwater Project





Former stream bed





Restored stream



Constructed wetland

Restored stream



7/5/2010







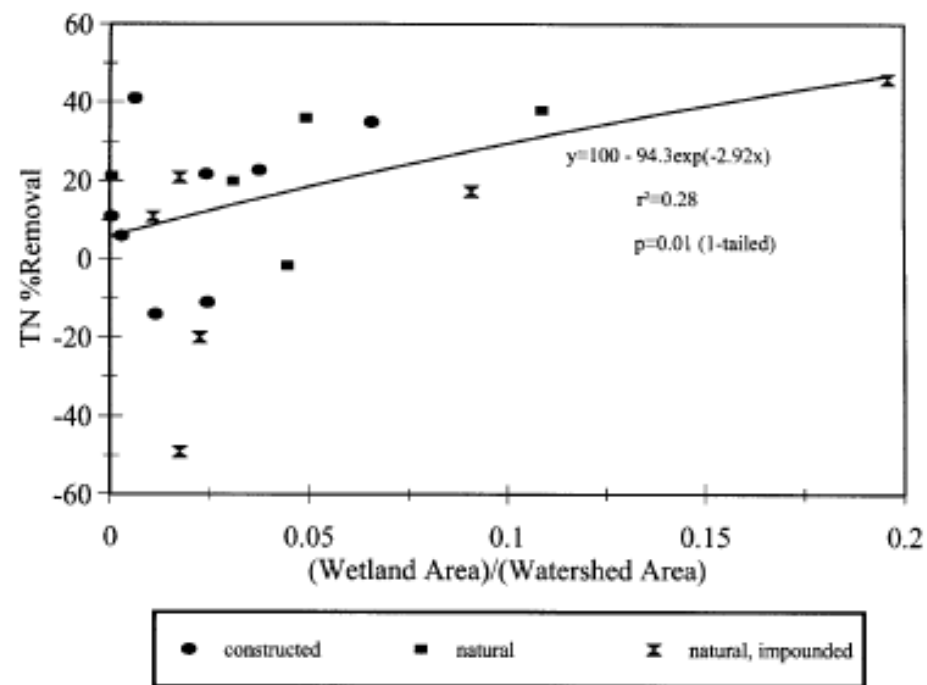
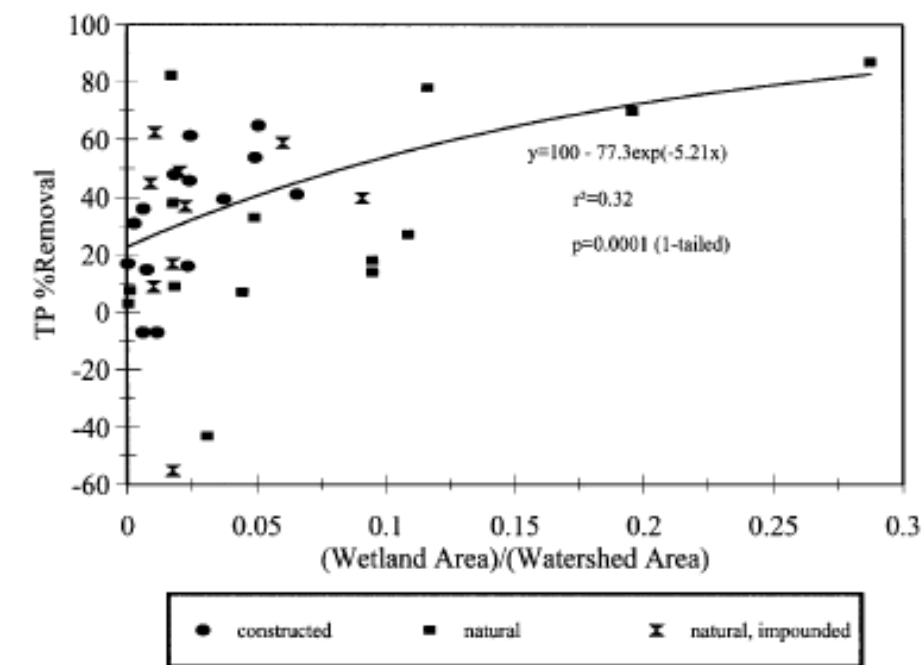
Removal of nutrients in the Duke University Stormwater Project

	TN	NO _{2,3} ⁻	NH ₄ ⁺	TP	SRP
	ug/L				
Inflow	3121	2697	159	401	295
Outflow	933	266	108	144	49
Removal (%)	70	58	32	64	83

Richardson et al. (2011)

Wetland: Watershed area ratio: usually between 0.01 and 0.04

Stormwater wetland survey throughout the United States



TP and TN removal versus wetland-to watershed area ratio
(Carleton et al., 2001)

Conclusions

In the urban environment, constructed wetlands could be used for treatment of several types of stormwater runoff, namely from the streets, parking lots, nurseries and greenhouses, golfcourses and airports.

For stormwater runoff treatment all types of constructed wetlands have been used

Wetlands are effective in nutrient removal from stormwater runoff but removal of nitrogen could be limited by the lack of organic compounds in the runoff.

Wetlands provide ecologically friendly solution for nutrient removal from stormwater runoff in urban areas.

Thank you for your attention

