

**SCM 3.3.2 SPREADSHEET
PRESERVED NATURAL OPEN SPACES
INSTRUCTIONS****Draft, July 1, 2026****Introduction**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed the SCM 3.3.2 Spreadsheet (Spreadsheet) to calculate water quality management credits when Preserved Natural Open Spaces are proposed as an SCM. Preserved Natural Open Spaces are undisturbed vegetated or forested lands that are protected long-term. Preserved Natural Open Spaces do not receive runoff from disturbed areas; they are within the project site boundary but do not receive new post-construction stormwater flows (see SCM 3.3.1 Spreadsheet (PNSFs) for natural landscape SCMs that receive new post-construction stormwater flows).

The Spreadsheet was designed using the latest version of Microsoft Excel® and is in Excel macro workbook (XLSM) format.

Users should check DEP’s website periodically for updates to the spreadsheet and instructions by visiting www.dep.pa.gov/constructionstormwater and selecting “E&S Resources”. In general, DEP/CCD will accept older versions of the spreadsheet no more than 6 months following the revision date of the spreadsheet. DEP/CCD also reserves the right to request completion of the latest version of the spreadsheet for any project.

Questions on the use of the spreadsheet can be directed to the Bureau of Clean Water at RA-EPCHAPTER102@pa.gov.

General Information

It is important that the user follow these instructions carefully. Omission of data in any cell designed for data entry may result in the failure of important calculations.

If prompted by Excel after opening the spreadsheet, enable editing and macros. *Note that you may need to add additional Trusted Locations in the Trust Center Settings of Excel in order to run the macros.* These locations may include server drives and/or locations where you intend to save the file for use. The following steps may be taken:

1. Excel Options > Trust Center > Trust Center Settings > Trusted Locations
2. Check the box to “Allow Trusted Locations on my network”
3. Select “Add new location”
4. Browse to select the folder (or server) where the file will be saved, check the “Subfolders of this location are also trusted” box, and then OK.

The top of the worksheet contains a “Clear Form” button. The user may click on the “Clear Form” button at any time to delete **all** data from the current worksheet. All cells available for data entry or selection from a drop-down menu are highlighted. **The user may use the Tab, arrow, or Enter keys to move from cell to cell. Using the mouse to click from cell to cell may result in validation errors.**

Care must be taken to enter the data in the correct order identified in these instructions to avoid potential errors with the calculations and logic. For example, skipping a cell may prevent a calculation or produce an error message. The spreadsheet is protected. Formulas are not visible but are explained in this document. Validation that exists in the spreadsheet is highlighted and explained in this document.

SCM 3.3.2 Spreadsheet (Preserved Natural Open Spaces) Instructions

Completing the Spreadsheet

General Section



SCM 3.3.2 Preserved Natural Open Spaces

CLEAR FORM

Project Name:

SCM ID:

2-year/24-hour Precipitation Depth: in

Project Site Area: ac

Are color photographs of the Preserved Natural Open Space attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How will the Preserved Natural Open Space be protected long-term?

- **Project Name** – Enter the Project (Site) Name as reported on the NOI, application, or plan submitted to DEP/CCD.
- **SCM ID** – Enter the SCM ID as is identified on plan drawings and PCSM Module 2.
- **Project Site Area** – Enter the total project site area, in acres.
- **2-Year/24-Hour Precipitation Depth** – Enter the 90th upper confidence interval statistic for the 2-year/24-hour precipitation depth using [NOAA Atlas 14](#), in inches.
- **Are color photographs of the Preserved Natural Open Space attached?** If “Yes” is selected, go to the next question. If “No” is selected the following message will be displayed, “Attach color photographs of the Preserved Natural Open Space.”
- **How will the Preserved Natural Open Space be protected long-term?** From the dropdown list select either “Deed Restriction”, “Conservation Easement” or “Other”. If “Other” is selected enter a description of the mechanism that will be used to protect the SCM.

Post-Construction Land Cover Section

☒ Post-Construction Land Cover

Predominant Preserved Natural Open Space Cover Type	Area (ac)	HSG	Runoff, 2-Yr/24-Hr (CF)

- **Predominant Preserved Natural Open Space Cover Type** – Select the predominant land cover of the Preserved Natural Open Space, the Area of the Preserved Natural Open Space within the project site in acres (including areas proposed for enhancement), and the predominant Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) within the Preserved Natural Open Space. A soils scientist or other professional with soils expertise should confirm the

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HSG; reliance on the NRCS web soil survey is not acceptable. Runoff for the 2-year/24-hour storm is automatically calculated.

NOTE 1 – Preserved Natural Open Spaces are not areas planted in turf grass unless the open space is a site with some historic or cultural value. “Open Space” land cover types are available in the dropdown list for cover type but should only be selected if the vegetation is maintained at a height of at least 6 inches for most of the year.

Water Quality Management Credit Section

☒ Water Quality Management Credit

Are there impervious surfaces within the Preserved Natural Open Space? ☐ Yes ☐ No

WQM Credit, TSS (lbs):

WQM Credit, TP (lbs):

WQM Credit, TN (lbs):

Water quality (WQ) management credit is calculated using the following equation:

Credit (lbs) = Estimated Runoff @ 2-year/24-hour storm (CF) * Event Mean Concentration (EMC) (mg/L) *
Reduction Factor * Conversion Factor (6.24×10^{-5} L-lbs/CF-mg)

Where Reduction Factor =

- 25% (0.25) for Total Suspended Solids (TSS);
- 20% (0.2) for Total Phosphorus (TP); and
- 15% (0.15) for Total Nitrogen (TN).

EMC values are contained in the [DEP PCSM Spreadsheet Instructions](#).

Check the box for “Yes” or “No” to answer the question, “Are there impervious surfaces within the Preserved Natural Open Space”? If the box for “Yes” is checked, enter the impervious area within the Preserved Natural Open Space, in acres. Up to 5% of the area of a Preserved Natural Open Space may be impervious (e.g., historic buildings). When the impervious exceeds 5%, credit is reduced as follows:

Modified Credit = Full Credit * (1 – (% impervious – 0.05))

Enter the results of the SCM 3.3.2 Spreadsheet into the PCSM Spreadsheet as non-structural water quality credit.

The user of the spreadsheet should enter their name and company after reading the certification statement.

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Revision History

Date	Version	Revision Reason
7/1/2026	1.0	Original Draft