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## Environmental Concerns

Many churches will need to deal with a local permit department whose charge is to protect the environment while allowing for growth. One of the challenges of your church addition or new construction project may be satisfying these authorities that you have properly addressed how your project will affect your neighbors and the environment.

Your locale may have very specific rules dealing with how you are to manage the flow and volume of water from your property after you have changed the site from absorbent soil and vegetation into impervious asphalt and steel. Some jurisdictions are even requiring the filtration of this stormwater as it leaves an oily parking lot and before it enters the public water supply. Another concern will be erosion control. How will the church insure that site excavation will not result in silt filling up nearby ditches, streams and sewers? If your property contains land deemed to be “wetlands”, some jurisdictions will not allow you to disturb it, or you may be required to purchase additional land and create a new wetlands area of proportionate size to the area you are destroying. A fourth concern to your permit department may be the removal of trees on your property.

All of these issues should be addressed to some degree prior to purchasing new church property. Your architect and civil engineer can assist you by determining the feasibility of your proposed new church project, and then helping you satisfy all local codes.

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