



HOW TO MAINTAIN HOME STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

When it rains, the rainwater runs off streets, roofs, and other hard surfaces, where it can pick up pollutants, such as dirt, chemicals, and oils. Stormwater runoff then travels to local waterways and, if not treated, can cause water quality problems. Stormwater management facilities are designed to capture and treat runoff using landscape, structural features, or both. In a stormwater management facility polluted runoff is allowed to soak into the ground, pollutants are filtered out and the flow rate of runoff leaving your site is reduced.



Photo taken from the 521 Drainage Authority Webpage

Many stormwater management facilities also benefit property owners. Vegetated stormwater management facilities can enhance property appearance, provide wildlife habitat and decrease landscape maintenance and water use. These facilities require inspections and maintenance, legally the responsibility of the property owner, to make sure they are performing properly.

Understanding the maintenance needs of your stormwater management facilities and how they work will help you to better plan for maintenance needs. Stormwater management facilities include rain gardens, wet/dry ponds, constructed wetlands, permeable pavement, grass channels, etc.

COMMON TYPES OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

Trash and Debris

- Trash and debris will collect in these facilities and can clog pipes or cause odors. Remove any trash or debris during monthly inspections.

Erosion

- Any areas with bare soil or cuts/channels in the surface of the facility may need maintenance. These areas are common near inlets, flow channels, or along steep slopes. Establishing grass in these areas can help stabilize erosion.

Structural Deficiencies

- Berms and any concrete, metal or plastic parts may need to be replaced/ repaired during the life of the facility. Look for cracks, dents, rust, broken or missing/loose components.

Vegetation

- Vegetation is an important part of your facility. Maintain desired vegetation and control unwanted growth and nuisance vegetation.

Pests

- Ponding water in these facilities can become a breeding ground for mosquitos or vegetation can attract undesired wildlife. If problems start to occur due to the presence of pests, they may need to be removed.

Sediment

- Sediment is dirt or other fines that can be carried in stormwater runoff. The buildup of sediment can cause clogging in pipes and decrease soil infiltration. Excess sediment should be removed.

Ponding Water

- If ponding water has become a problem for your typically dry facility, it could be clogged. Clogging is usually caused by trash/debris or sediment. Removing the debris/trash can restore function.

Odors

- Decaying plants or trash may cause odors. Remove trash, sediment and dead plants.

Suggested Schedule for Inspections:

SPRING	FALL
Clean out trash/debris	Clean out trash/debris
Clean out weeds and unwanted plants	Clean out weeds, unwanted plants & plant debris
Check for erosion (more than 1" soil lost)	Replace dead and dying plants
Check for pests and unusual odors	
SUMMER	WINTER
Clean out trash/debris	Clean out trash/debris
When facility is dry, remove any sediment buildup	Check for ponding water
Make any structural repairs	

Inspecting and Maintaining Your Facility

It's important to make sure stormwater facilities function properly. It's a good idea to inspect facilities at least twice a year and after heavy rainfall. Inspection and maintenance logs should be kept with note of all inspection dates, the facility components that were inspected, and any maintenance or repairs made.

For more information, visit the City's Stormwater Management website <http://www.petersburg-va.org/295/Stormwater-Management>.

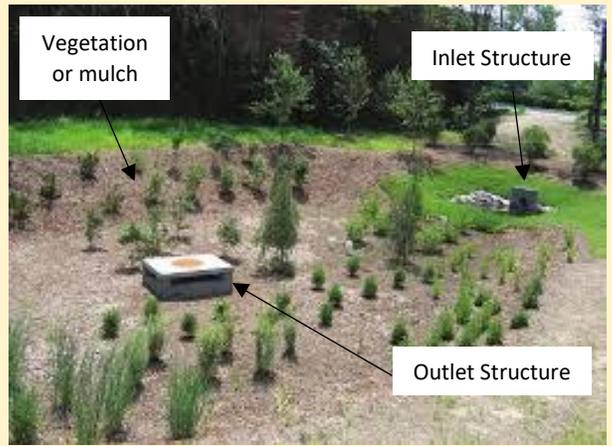


Photo taken from the EPA Operation and Maintenance of Green Infrastructure Receiving Runoff from Roads and Parking Lots: Technical Memorandum.

SAMPLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE LOG

Date: _____ Name: _____

FACILITY PIECE	TRASH, DEBRIS, SEDIMENT	EROSION	VEGETATION	BROKEN PARTS	PONDING WATER, ODOR, PESTS	MAINTENANCE ACTION(S) TAKEN
Inlet Channel or Structure						
Outlet Structure						
Other						

Other Observations:

**Adapted from "How to Maintain Stormwater Management Systems at Home" by the James River Association, July 2010.