



Stormwater BMP Maintenance and Inspection.



A Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) is a practice used to manage the impacts of stormwater runoff, such as a detention pond or swale. They require periodic maintenance and should be checked regularly to determine whether maintenance is needed. Maintenance activities help increase property values and maintain the important function that the facilities play in protecting downstream waters.

What should I look for?

Stormwater BMPs look different depending on the function they were designed to perform and the aesthetic preferences of the owner. Despite these differences, any Stormwater BMPs exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics is in need of maintenance.

Algae blooms – the growth of algae over a significant portion of the water surface.

Clogged pipe – the accumulation of litter, debris, sediment, or vegetation at the end of a pipe.

Broken pipe – adjacent sections of pipe that are no longer joined together.

Extended high-water elevation – the storage of runoff in a detention or retention pond above the normal water level for longer than 72-hours after the end of a storm event.

Shoreline erosion – erosion of the soil at or near the normal water level.

Slope erosion – erosion of the soil along the slope of a swale or the side slope of a detention or retention pond.

Sediment deposits – the accumulation of sediment in the bottom of a Stormwater BMP.

Poor vegetation – the absence of vegetation over a noticeable area.

Excessive vegetation – the growth of vegetation which may impede the flow of runoff into or out of the Stormwater BMP.

Excessive litter or debris – the accumulation of trash, yard waste, or other material which does not belong in the Stormwater BMP.

Noxious weeds – unwanted weeds that are crowding out desired vegetation.





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What should I do?

All Stormwater BMPs require maintenance, although the type of maintenance and the schedule for maintenance will vary. If the Stormwater BMP is located in a neighborhood with a Home Owner's Association, then the Association is likely responsible to perform the maintenance. In some cases, the maintenance needed is routine and can be performed by any resident. In other cases, a contractor may have to be hired. In rare cases, the City will perform the required maintenance. The following maintenance activities are common for Stormwater BMPs.

- **Control litter and debris** – collect and dispose of dumped or discarded waste material.
- **Manage vegetation** – mow turf grass areas regularly. Native vegetation should be managed by trained professionals and should generally not be mowed.
- **Restore eroded areas** – stabilize disturbed areas. In many cases, this stabilization will require permanent erosion control measures, such as: rock, a turf reinforcement mat, or native vegetation.
- **Remove sediment** – dredge the accumulated sediment from the bottom of a detention or retention pond.

Detention Basin Before Maintenance



Detention Basin During Maintenance



Detention Basin After Maintenance

