Detention Basin Maintenance Guidelines

INLETS/OUTLETS
Inspect the pipe to make sure it is not crumbling or broken. Remove any debris or sediment that is obstructing the flow of water. If not removed, it could reduce the efficiency of the system.

EXAMINE FOR EROSION
Check for gullies or sloughing of the banks in the spring and fall or after a major storm. Effective groundcovers must be kept healthy to prevent erosion and damage the system.

INSPECT VEGETATION
Inspect vegetation on the banks and in the basin in the spring and fall. Remove dead cattails and other decomposing vegetation if they are clogging the pipe openings. Repair bare areas along the banks with turfgrass seed, meadow grass, or wildflowers. Regular inspections by a designated person, owner, or operator should be made, and a clear record should be kept.

MOWING
Turfgrass basins only need to be mowed two or three times a year. Basins planted with native grasses and wildflowers should only be mowed once a year in the late fall or early spring.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING TO THE BANKS
Planting a variety of shrubs and wildflowers along the banks of stormwater basins will add more color and interest to the landscape as well as improve bird habitat.

MECHANICAL COMPONENT MAINTENANCE
All mechanical equipment, such as gutters, valves, locks, or other components must be kept in working order should an emergency arise.

REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF THE BASIN
Having regular inspections and immediate repairs will reduce the need for major repairs. Note any standing water or evidence of extended ponding not intended in the design or function of the system. Document any erosion or sediment accumulation and remove the excess sediment from the basin.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT
Photograph the basin and log any inspections, maintenance, or repairs to the basin. This will allow assessment of conditions over time and allow prioritization of maintenance and repairs.

Feel free to contact the RCE Water Resources Program if you need assistance or have any questions.

For more information, please visit:
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