

Detention Basin Maintenance Guidelines

Now that your detention basin has been installed, what's next?

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

Please photograph the progress of the basin and share pictures with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program! In addition, document the maintenance of the basin and be sure to contact the RCE Water Resources Program at water@envsci.rutgers.edu if you need assistance or have any questions.

For more information, please visit:
www.water.rutgers.edu

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