

## NEW MAINTENANCE PRACTICE BENEFITS

- » Reduces harmful emissions and fossil fuel usage from mowers
- » Lowers the amount of carbon dioxide in the air
- » Keeps basins clean and functional
- » Lowers maintenance costs for the town
- » Promotes a healthy and sustainable environment for the community
- » Reduces flooding
- » Prevents damage to downstream neighbors

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## STORMWATER BASIN MAINTENANCE



## WHAT IS...

### STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water that originates during rainfall or snowmelt. Impervious surfaces, such as roofs, roads, and driveways prevent rain from soaking into the ground, creating more stormwater that has to be managed to prevent pollution and flooding.



### A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BASIN?

A stormwater management basin holds stormwater during rain storms to prevent downstream flooding. It is an important part of our community's infrastructure that helps protect our waters and residents.



# MAINTENANCE

*Stormwater basins require regular inspection and maintenance to ensure that they are functioning properly to protect private property and improve water quality.*

## 1) INSPECT INLET AND OUTLET PIPES



Inspect the pipe or pipes bringing water into the basin to make sure it isn't crumbling or broken. Remove any debris or dirt that may obstruct the flow of water into the basin.

## 2) EXAMINE THE SIDE SLOPES FOR EROSION



In the spring and fall, and after a major storm, check for gullies or sloughing of the banks. Any damage should be repaired immediately by filling any eroded areas with topsoil and seeding with turf grass.

## 3) INSPECT VEGETATION



In the spring and fall, inspect the vegetation on the banks and in the basin. Dead cattails and other decomposing vegetation should be removed if they are clogging pipe openings. Repair bare spots along banks with turf grass seed, meadow grass, or wildflowers.

# REQUIREMENTS

## 4) MOWING



Basins with turf grass only need to be mowed two or three times a year. Basins with native grasses and wildflower plantings should be mowed only once a year in the late fall or early spring.

## 5) ADD VEGETATION 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.

## PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Maintaining stormwater basins is an important job. The Department of Public Works maintains many basins throughout the community. But we also need individual property owners to maintain their basins as well. A significant effort is required to clean basins, mow them, and make sure they are not damaged or clogged. The most important task is to clean the inlet and outlet pipes so that the basins do not overflow and flood when it rains.