

DANE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

GUIDANCE FOR PRIVATE OWNERS



WHAT ARE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

Stormwater management practices are typically a combination of landscape and structural components that collect, convey, filter, and/or infiltrate stormwater runoff on-site after a rainfall or snowmelt event. Common examples include wet ponds, dry ponds, bioretention basins, and vegetated swales. When properly designed, installed and maintained, stormwater management practices protect downstream properties from flood risk, promote infiltration to recharge groundwater aquifers (our source of drinking water in Dane County), and protect our local lakes, rivers, and streams from excess sediment and nutrients.

Dane County Chapter 14 Ordinance requires owners of stormwater management practices to maintain those facilities. Owners should have a maintenance plan that addresses every component of the stormwater system to ensure the system does not fail or lose its capacity to manage stormwater.

AT A GLANCE

PRIVATE OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Familiarize yourself with the components of your stormwater facility, each component's location, and proper operation.
- Inspect private facilities a minimum of two times per year.
- Maintain facilities in accordance with your approved stormwater management plan and the recorded maintenance agreement.

DID YOU KNOW?

BENEFITS OF NATIVE VEGETATION

Dane County requires that bioretention basins use native plants, which help support a more diverse ecosystem and provide the following advantages:

- Many native plants have very large, deep root systems. These root systems hold more water, which helps minimize flooding, filter out pollutants, and improve air quality.
- Once established, native plants are healthier and stronger. Plants native to an area are more likely to establish quickly, and will be naturally hardy and healthy, making long term maintenance easier and cheaper for landowners.
- Do not require the use of fertilizers or pesticides, which can not be applied in an infiltration facility.

STORMWATER INSPECTIONS

Owners are required to perform regular inspection of their stormwater management practices, making sure to inspect the following items (if applicable): facility bottom, side slopes, overflow spillways, inlet pipes, outlet pipes, conveyance pipes, culverts, riprap, swales or ditches, grates, debris/trash, sediment buildup, water levels, mulch depth, and vegetation condition.

If concerns over the structural integrity of the stormwater facilities arise or major repairs are needed, contact a civil engineer or Dane County Water Resource Engineering staff for additional resources.



MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Maintenance needs vary based on the type of stormwater management practice(s) you have on your property, but there are common maintenance requirements and recommended frequencies.

For a more complete list, refer to your approved stormwater management plan and the maintenance agreement that was deed recorded to your property.

Activity	Frequency	Maintenance Notes
Weeding	As needed	Perform spot weeding, remove invasive species that are not a part of your vegetation plan, and remove dead plant litter.
Remove woody vegetation	As needed	Remove (cut, or cut and treat with herbicide) all woody-stemmed vegetation from within or around a facility or component.
Plant Upkeep	Every 2-3 days for the first 1-2 months; then as needed	Water plants regularly during the first planting season. If drought conditions exist after establishment, plants may need occasional watering. Within the first year, it is common for up to 10% of plants to die. Regularly check plant health, fill in bare spots, and replace native vegetation as needed.
Mowing	2-12 times per year	Frequency depends on location, management practice, and desired aesthetic appeal. Refer to your approved plan for details. Generally, mowing in buffer areas around stormwater ponds should be minimized. If needed, mow no shorter than 6 inches.
Inlet & Outlet inspection	After first rain of the season, then monthly during the rainy season	Check for sediment accumulation to ensure that flow into the stormwater management practice is as designed. Remove any accumulated sediment. Inspect any stone weepers or riprap for sediment buildup, vegetation growth, or stone displacement. Check for erosion at the outlet. Remove any vegetation, trash, debris, or buildup that may be blocking the inlet or outlet.
Trash & Debris Removal	Once per month	Remove any trash, debris, or dead plant litter that has accumulated in the stormwater facilities.
Repair erosion or subsidence areas	As needed	Repair areas of active erosion or subsidence by filling with topsoil, seeding, and covering with mulch or erosion mat.



WHY IT MATTERS

UNMAINTAINED FACILITIES MAY:

- Not remove pollutants as intended, sending polluted water to your local lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Fill with sediment and debris, so water cannot be stored in the facility, which reduces filtering capabilities and may lead to flooding and erosion.
- Look unsightly with excessive growth of unwanted weeds or algae.
- Cost more to fix problems when left unchecked.
- Increase the risk of a structural failure. Overgrown vegetation and trees compromise the facility safety over time, requiring costly repairs for the owner.
- Have inlet and outlet areas blocked by excessive growth or debris, which could cause water to flood your property.

Dane County Land & Water

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For more information regarding
Stormwater Management in Dane
County, scan the QR code or visit us at
danecountystormwatermanual.com

