



## Maintenance Concerns, Objectives, and Goals

- Clogged Soil or Outlet Structures
- Invasive Species
- Vegetation/Landscape Maintenance
- Erosion
- Channelization of Flow
- Aesthetics

## General Description

The bioretention best management practice (BMP) functions as a soil and plant-based filtration device that removes pollutants through a variety of physical, biological, and chemical treatment processes. These facilities normally consist of a grass buffer strip, sand bed, ponding area, organic layer or mulch layer, planting soil, and plants. The runoff's velocity is reduced by passing over or through a sand bed and is subsequently distributed evenly along a ponding area. Exfiltration of the stored water in the bioretention area planting soil into the underlying soils occurs over a period of days.

## Inspection/Maintenance Considerations

Bioretention requires frequent landscaping maintenance, including measures to ensure that the area is functioning properly, as well as maintenance of the landscaping on the practice. In many cases, bioretention areas initially require intense maintenance, but less maintenance is needed over time. In many cases, maintenance tasks can be completed by a landscaping contractor, who may already be hired at the site. In cold climates the soil may freeze, preventing runoff from infiltrating into the planting soil.

## Targeted Constituents

✓ Sediment	■
✓ Nutrients	▲
✓ Trash	■
✓ Metals	■
✓ Bacteria	■
✓ Oil and Grease	■
✓ Organics	■
✓ Oxygen Demanding	■

### Legend (Removal Effectiveness)

- Low
- High
- ▲ Medium



Inspection Activities	Suggested Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Inspect soil and repair eroded areas.</li> </ul>	Monthly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Inspect for erosion or damage to vegetation, preferably at the end of the wet season to schedule summer maintenance and before major fall runoff to be sure the strips are ready for winter. However, additional inspection after periods of heavy runoff is desirable.</li> </ul>	Semi-annual inspection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Inspect to ensure grass is well established. If not, either prepare soil and reseed or replace with alternative species. Install erosion control blanket.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Check for debris and litter, and areas of sediment accumulation.</li> <li>■ Inspect health of trees and shrubs.</li> </ul>	
Maintenance Activities	Suggested Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Water plants daily for 2 weeks.</li> </ul>	At project completion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Remove litter and debris.</li> </ul>	Monthly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Remove sediment.</li> <li>■ Remulch void areas.</li> <li>■ Treat diseased trees and shrubs.</li> <li>■ Mow turf areas.</li> <li>■ Repair erosion at inflow points.</li> <li>■ Repair outflow structures.</li> <li>■ Unclog underdrain.</li> <li>■ Regulate soil pH regulation.</li> </ul>	As needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Remove and replace dead and diseased vegetation.</li> </ul>	Semi-annual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Add mulch.</li> <li>■ Replace tree stakes and wires.</li> </ul>	Annual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mulch should be replaced every 2 to 3 years or when bare spots appear. Remulch prior to the wet season.</li> </ul>	Every 2-3 years, or as needed

### Additional Information

Landscaping is critical to the function and aesthetic value of bioretention areas. It is preferable to plant the area with native vegetation, or plants that provide habitat value, where possible. Another important design feature is to select species that can withstand the hydrologic regime they will experience. At the bottom of the bioretention facility, plants that tolerate both wet and dry conditions are preferable. At the edges, which will remain primarily dry, upland species will be the most resilient. It is best to select a combination of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous materials.

### References

Metropolitan Council, Urban Small Sites Best Management Practices Manual. Available at: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/Watershed/BMP/manual.htm>

Model Urban Runoff Program: A How-To Guide for Developing Urban Runoff Programs for Small Municipalities. Prepared by City of Monterey, City of Santa Cruz, California Coastal Commission, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Woodward-Clyde, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. July, 1998, revised February, 2002.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development & Redevelopment BMP Factsheets. Available at:  
[cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/bmp\\_files.cfm](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/bmp_files.cfm)

Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program, Technical Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Control Measures. July, 2002.