

Stormwater Facility Maintenance Tips



Stormwater facilities that were approved after 2010 are inspected annually by the City of Camas, as required by the City's municipal stormwater permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Property owners are responsible for maintenance. Three categories of maintenance are described below.

Routine Maintenance

Owners usually may complete routine maintenance without any special training or skills by keeping up on the following activities:

Maintain Access to the Facility

Most facilities are gated and have a gravel or paved access road.

- Ensure the gate/s can open without obstacles.
- Remove barriers, weeds, and other vegetation from road.
- Properly chain your private owners' lock with the City lock (illustration at right).
- Repair gate and fence as necessary.



The two locks are daisy-chained. Each lock acts as a link in the chain. Opening either lock unfastens the chain to allow the gate to open.

Above-ground Vegetated Stormwater Ponds and Swales

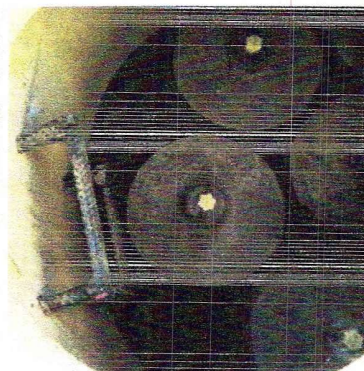
- Mow grasses and control weeds.
- Manually remove blackberries and unplanned tree seedlings at the bottom and on side slopes.
- Remove trash and leaves from the inlets, outlets, and pond/swale bottom.
- Correct minor erosion at inlets and on side slopes, and manually remove small amounts of accumulated sediment at inlets and outlets.
- Annually inspect the facility to determine if other maintenance is needed.

Underground Stormwater Filtration Vaults and Manholes

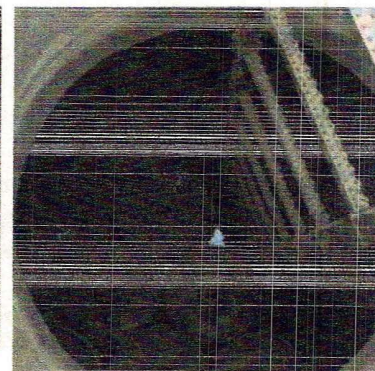
- Remove any vegetation or debris covering the lid.
- Annually inspect the facility to determine if other maintenance is needed (see photos below).
- Schedule replacement of filter media or filter cartridges every few years (see page 2).
- **Do not enter an underground structure, vault, or manhole. Underground confined spaces may accumulate toxic gasses. Maintaining an underground stormwater structure requires assistance from a professional as described on page 2.**



Carefully open the facility lid using a manhole puller. Look inside the structure from above. Look for cracks, sediment, trash, and dirty water. **Do not enter.**



This stormwater filtration vault is filled with sediment. It requires specialized maintenance as described on page 2.



This stormwater filtration vault is partially filled with clear water, and it does not appear to contain sediment or trash. No maintenance is needed.

Specialized Maintenance

Specialized maintenance likely requires the assistance of a qualified stormwater contractor, a landscaping contractor, or a person trained in confined space entry. It may require commercial equipment such as a Vactor truck to remove sediment from an underground structure.

Specialized maintenance may be required from time to time, even if the owner keeps up with routine maintenance.

Specialized maintenance includes:

- Removing sediment from an underground structure.
- Removing blackberry thickets that are too extensive for manual control.
- Revegetating a large area.

See www.stormwaterpartners.com/facilities for a list of contractors that can help.

Extensive Maintenance and Repair

Extensive maintenance and repair likely requires the assistance of a construction contractor and may require the assistance of an engineer. Extensive maintenance and repair also includes replacement of proprietary stormwater filtration media/cartridges and removal of established trees. Anticipate higher costs.

Replacement of the filter media or cartridges should be scheduled every few years. Most other extensive maintenance and repair problems may be avoided by keeping up with routine and specialized maintenance.

Extensive maintenance and repair includes:

- Removing established trees from pond/swale bottom or side slopes.
- Removing sediment from pond/swale bottom and re-grading the facility.
- Correcting significant erosion.
- Fixing structural problems such as broken pipes, cracked concrete, wall failure, or damaged berms.
- Replacing filter media or filter cartridges in underground proprietary stormwater filtration systems. Contech StormFilter® systems are commonly used in Camas.

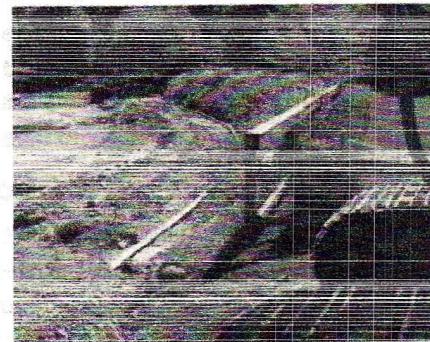
See www.stormwaterpartners.com/facilities for a list of contractors that can help.
For help with a proprietary underground stormwater filtration system, contact the manufacturer.

Additional information is available by contacting the City via email at stormwater@cityofcamas.us.



Vactor Truck

© Mike Mozart of TheToyChannel and JeepersMedia on YouTube, licensed for use under [Creative Commons 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)



Excavation to remove accumulated sediment from a stormwater facility. After the sediment is excavated, the facility will need to be replanted.