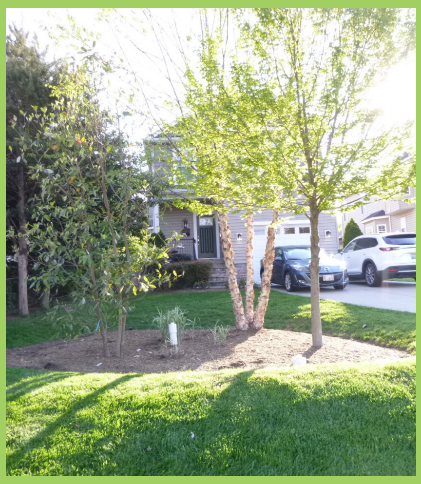
MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Bioretention (BR) Systems

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, ONE STORMWATER PRACTICE AT A TIME

- Develop a routine maintenance schedule that follows the approved facility plan, the private maintenance agreement, and/or the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Clean up all trash, debris, and sediment found in and around the facility.
- Clean the outlet, overflow structure(s), and/or weir(s) and remove blockages.
- Remove weeds from within the facility.
- Prune trees and shrubs within the facility to keep them healthy. We also recommend cutting back perennial plants each year in late winter/early spring.
- Repair eroded areas and stabilize any bare spots by replanting, mulching, or reseeding per the plan.
- Seed all bare areas and repair any erosion in and around the facility to prevent sediment from clogging the bioretention filter media.
- Remove and replace dead vegetation within the facility.
- In areas where the plan calls for mulch, maintain a 2- to 3-inch mulch layer. The entire mulch layer should be completely removed and replaced every 2 to 3 years.
- Check the observation well for standing water by removing the cap and looking inside. Clean the pipe and underdrains if obstructions are present.
- See the next page for steps if standing water does not drain within 48 hours after a rainfall event.



IMPORTANT

Fairfax County specifically disclaims any warranty, either expressed or implied, arising out of the use of these guidelines. The guidelines are not meant to replace or supersede any specific recommendations offered by a qualified professional. Thank you for maintaining your stormwater facility and helping protect Fairfax County's waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services | Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division
703-877-2800 | www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Bioretention (BR) Systems

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, ONE STORMWATER PRACTICE AT A TIME

TROUBLESHOOTING STORMWATER ISSUES

Photo 1 - Bioretention facility with unhealthy vegetation.

Photo 2 - Inflow pipe blocked by debris and sediment.

Photo 3 - Ponding water in the facility for more than 48 hours.

Photo 4 - Standing water observed inside observation well for more than 48 hours.

Observation	Recommended Course of Action
The facility has unhealthy/dead plants (See Photo 1).	▪ Replant or restore vegetation to match the approved facility plan. Consult a qualified professional to determine correct plantings.
The facility is dry immediately following a rainfall event.	▪ Check all inflows and remove material blocking the flow of water to the facility (See Photo 2). ▪ Confirm all inflows drain to the facility and follow the approved facility plans. Redirect inflows so they are not bypassing the facility.
Ponding water remains on the surface of the bioretention facility for more than 48 hours after a rainfall event (See Photo 3).	▪ Remove accumulated soil/debris from the ponding area. ▪ Check the outfall structure/pipe (if present) and remove material blocking the flow of water. ▪ Open the observation well(s)/cleanout(s) to verify the underdrain system is not clogged (See Photo 4). Snake and/or flush the underdrain to remove blockages that may be present. ▪ Consult a qualified professional to evaluate the facility and determine next steps if the cause of the standing water is not clear or corrected through routine maintenance.