

# FACT SHEET: Maintenance of Stormwater Facilities

## ▶ What are Stormwater Facilities?

Stormwater facilities are structures that capture, transport, slow down, and/or retain rain and/or snowmelt that flows over ground. Located above or below ground, stormwater facilities are an important tool in improving the quality of our waterways. These facilities include inlet and outlet structures, pipes, gutters, ditches, swales, French drains, rain gardens, infiltration trenches, underground tanks, and detention (dry) and retention (wet) basins.

## ▶ Why are Stormwater Facilities Important?

Impervious surfaces prevent water from absorbing into the ground and replenishing our groundwater. Stormwater facilities manage stormwater by capturing it, conveying it to proper locations, and removing pollutants. They prevent erosion, reduce flooding, and protect public health.

## ▶ Why Do You Need to Maintain Stormwater Facilities?

Trash, debris, sediment, mud, and other stormwater pollutants can clog stormwater facilities. The facilities themselves can develop structural cracks and leaks over time. Routine maintenance ensures stormwater facilities continue to function properly. Proper and regular maintenance of stormwater facilities prolongs the life of the facility, prevents failure and expensive repairs, and reduces water pollution.

## ▶ Who is Responsible for Maintenance? What is Required?

Generally, property owners are responsible for maintaining stormwater facilities located on their property. Your local municipality (Township or Borough) is generally responsible for stormwater facilities located within public streets. Below are steps you can take to maintain stormwater facilities located on your property:

- Grass Drainage Swales: remove trash and debris, keep area mowed, reseed bare or eroded areas, and contact your local municipality if you have recurring erosion.
- Rock-Lined Facilities: remove trash and debris, remove excess sediment, and replace rocks as needed.
- Porous Pavement: remove trash and debris including leaves, sweep to remove sediment, and vacuum—do not pressure wash—to remove clogs.
- Infiltration Areas: remove sediment and debris, including flow path to area.
- Detention and Retention Basins: remove trash and debris that wash into and clog pipes, clean out accumulated sediment, keep mowed, reseed eroded areas, and maintain vegetated areas.
- Storm Drains: check storm drains for debris before and after storms to alleviate flooding, continually remove trash and debris from around drains.
- Inlet/Outlet Facilities: remove trash, debris, and excess sediment so water can enter/exit.



*The below stormwater facilities require proper maintenance and removal of trash and debris.*



## TYPES OF STORMWATER FACILITIES

- ▶ Pipe inlets, outlets, and associated concrete/grates
- ▶ Ditches along roadways and yards
- ▶ Grass-lined and stone-lined swales
- ▶ Ponds (wet detention basins)
- ▶ Rain gardens
- ▶ Rain barrels
- ▶ Porous pavement
- ▶ Green roofs
- ▶ Roof gutters

### \*\* CAUTION \*\*

Only trained contractors should work within inlets, pipes, and other confined spaces. These areas may contain an oxygen-deficient environment or toxic gases. NEVER enter an underground vault, catch basin, inlet/outlet structure, or pipe without proper training and equipment.



## WE CAN HELP!

- ▶ Kara Kalupson, RLA, CPMSM  
1-800-RETTEW-5, ext. 3706  
[kara.kalupson@rettew.com](mailto:kara.kalupson@rettew.com)
- ▶ Jim Caldwell  
1-800-RETTEW-5, ext. 3203  
[jcaldwell@rettew.com](mailto:jcaldwell@rettew.com)