

A Guide to Maintaining BMPs

Best Management Practices (BMPs), are devices used to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff, thereby protecting area waterways. These practices are often permanent facilities designed to handle stormwater runoff for a specific area. As a property owner or Homeowners Association, you may be responsible for maintenance of a BMP.

Why BMPs?

In recent years, the impacts on area waterways, due to the urban-ization of watersheds, have become evident. With continued construction of paved surfaces and development projects, the drainage patterns become altered, which often results in flooding. Normal day-to-day activities such as washing the car and fertil-izing the lawn, have also contributed to water pollution. Excess fertilizer, lawn chemicals, automotive products, pet waste, leaves, debris, litter and anything else that washes from the landscape are carried with each rain storm into drainage systems, some of which flow directly into area waterways. BMPs reduce the flow which allows for filtration of pollutants before the stormwater enters our streams, rivers, lakes and bays. To ensure that BMPs perform as expected, they must be maintained properly. No two BMPs are alike, and their maintenance needs may differ.



A properly functioning retention pond.