

# EXAMPLE ONLY

## VEGETATED FILTER STRIP MAINTENANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

The Permanent *Stormwater System Maintenance and Responsibility Agreement* requires adequate maintenance for stormwater management/Best Management Practices (BMP) facilities including Vegetated Filter Strips. Document Vegetated Filter Strips deficiencies during **annual** inspections. Complete any necessary repairs and/or preventive maintenance procedures in a timely manner to ensure proper functioning as Vegetated Filter Strips.

Important maintenance procedures:

- Immediately after the installation, water newly planted vegetation twice weekly as needed until the vegetation becomes established (typically six weeks).
- Ensure the grass cover is dense and healthy. Re-sod or re-seed if necessary to ensure a dense stand of grass.
- Maintain stable groundcover in the drainage area to reduce the sediment load.
- Two to three times per year, grass filter strips will be mowed and the clippings harvested to promote the growth of thick vegetation with optimum pollutant removal efficiency. Turf grass should not be cut shorter than 3 to 5 inches and may be allowed to grow as tall as 12 inches depending on the aesthetic requirements. Forested filter strips do not require this type of maintenance.
- Once a year, the soil will be aerated if necessary.
- Once a year, soil pH will be tested and lime will be added if necessary.
- Annually inspect the BMP to ensure proper function and effectiveness as a stormwater best management practice.

After vegetation is established, perform inspections once a quarter and after every storm event greater than 1.0 inch, and annually thereafter. Keep operation and maintenance records in a known location and make them available upon request.

Perform recommended maintenance activities as follows:

Required Maintenance	Frequency
Periodic pruning and weeding.	As needed
Remove trash and debris.	As needed
Inspect inflow points for clogging. Remove any sediment.	Every 6-months
Repair eroded areas. Re-seed or sod as necessary.	Every 6-months
Inspect trees and shrubs to evaluate their health.	Every 6-months
Remove and replace dead or severely diseased vegetation.	Every 6-months
Removal of evasive vegetation.	Every 6-months
Nutrient and pesticide management.	Annual, or as needed
Water vegetation, shrubs, and trees.	Every 6-months



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Perform trouble shooting activities as follows:

Field Condition	Common Solutions
Trash/ Debris is present	Remove trash/ debris
Water is channelizing and causing erosion.	Re-grade if necessary to smooth it over and Provide additional erosion protection as needed such as erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement matting to prevent future erosion problems.
Too much sediment has accumulated.	Remove accumulated sediment to recover capacity. A sediment forebay may be required. Remove sediment that exceeds 2 inches on more than 10% of the vegetated treatment area, or anywhere that it is interfering with performance.
The flow control device is clogged or damaged	Unclog and properly dispose of any sediment off site. Make any necessary repairs or replace device if necessary.
Grass is too long or too short.	Maintain grass at a height of approximately three to six inches.
Plants are desiccated, dead, diseased or dying	Determine the source of the problem (soils, hydrology, disease, etc.). Remedy the problem and replace plants. Provide a one-time fertilizer application. Provide additional irrigation and fertilizer as needed.
Nuisance vegetation is choking out desirable species	Remove vegetation by hand if possible. If pesticide is used, do not allow it to get into the receiving water (stream, pond, etc.).

