

Regular Inspection and Maintenance Guidance for Gravel Wetland Stormwater Management Device

Regular inspection and maintenance is critical to the effective operation of Gravel Wetland systems. It is the responsibility of the owner to maintain the Gravel Wetland in accordance with the minimum design standards. This page provides guidance on maintenance activities that are typically required for these systems, along with the suggested frequency for each activity. Individual systems may have more, or less, frequent maintenance needs, depending on a variety of factors including the occurrence of large storm events, overly wet or dry (I.E., drought), regional hydrologic conditions, and any changes or redevelopment in the upstream land use.

ACTIVITIES

Visual inspections are routine for system maintenance. This includes looking for standing water, accumulated leaves, holes in the soil media, signs of plant distress, and debris and sediment accumulation in the system. Vegetation coverage is integral to the performance of the system and vegetation care is important to system productivity and health. A gravel wetland is a subsurface horizontal filtration system and does not rely upon the surface soils for treatment. As such, surface infiltration rates are expected to be low and not a criterion for cleaning. Rather, stormwater access to subsurface treatment is by way of inlet standpipes. It is important to ensure these inlets are performing properly.

1ST YEAR POST-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY
1. Check that plants have adequate water, are well established and healthy. Remedy: Water plants as necessary, remove or treat diseased vegetation as necessary and re-vegetate poorly established plants as necessary	After every major storm in the first few months, then biannually.
2. Check for erosion in the system and short circuiting (holes) in the surface wetland soils. Remedy: Soil piping, erosion, and holes should be filled, lightly compacted, and reseeded.	
POST-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY
3. Check inlets outlets and stand pipes for leaves and debris. Remedy: Rake in and around the system to clear it of debris. Also, clear the inlet, outlets and standpipes if obstructed.	Quarterly initially, biannually, frequency adjusted as needed after 3 inspections
4. Check for animal burrows and short circuiting in the system. Remedy: Soil erosion from short circuiting or animal borrows should be repaired when they occur. The holes should be filled and lightly compacted	
5. Check that the depth of accumulated sediment in the sedimentation chamber is less than 12 inches or 10 percent of the pretreatment volume. Remedy: The sedimentation chamber, forebay, and treatment cells outlet devices should be cleaned when drawdown times exceed 36 hours. Remove material with rakes where possible rather than heavy construction equipment to avoid compaction of the gravel wetland surface. Heavy equipment could be used if the system is designed with dimensions that allow equipment to be located outside the gravel wetland, while a backhoe shovel reaches inside the gravel wetland to remove sediment. Removed sediments should be dewatered (if necessary) and disposed of in an acceptable manner.	
6. Inspect inlets and outlets to ensure good condition and no evidence of deterioration. Check to see if high-flow bypass is functioning. Remedy: Repair or replace any damaged structural parts, inlets and outlets.	Annually
7. Check for robust vegetation coverage throughout the system. Remedy: If at least 50 % vegetation coverage is not established after 2 years, reinforcement planting should be performed.	
8. Cut and remove vegetation from the Gravel Wetland System and forebay in order to maintain nitrogen removal performance. Remedy: The vegetation should be cut and removed from the system to prevent nitrogen from cycling back into the system.	Once every 3 years

CHECKLIST FOR INSPECTION OF GRAVEL WETLAND

Location:

Inspector:

Date:

Time:

Site Conditions:

Date Since Last Rain Event:

Inspection Items	Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U)	Comments/Corrective Action
1st Year Post-Construction Monitoring (After every major storm for the first three months)		
Plants are stable, roots not exposed	S U	
Vegetation is established and thriving	S U	
No evidence of holes in the wetland soil causing short-circuiting	S U	
No evidence of erosion at inlet and outlet structures	S U	
Post-Construction Routine Monitoring (at least every 6 months thereafter as per USEPA Good House-Keeping Requirements. Inspection frequency can be reduced to annual following 2 years of monitoring indicating the rate of sediment accumulation is less than cleaning criteria listed below.)		
1. Standing Water		
Gravel wetland surface is free of standing water or other evidence of clogging, such as discolored or accumulated sediments	S U	
2. Short Circuiting & Erosion		
No evidence of animal burrows or other holes	S U	
No evidence of erosion	S U	
3. Drought Conditions (As needed)		
Water plants as needed	S U	
Dead or dying plants	S U	
4. Sedimentation Chamber or Forebay Inlet Inspection		
No evidence of sediment accumulation, trash, and debris.	S U	
Good condition, no need for repair	S U	
5. Vegetation Coverage		
50 % coverage established throughout system by first year	S U	
Robust coverage by year 2 or later	S U	
6. Inlet and Outlet Controls		
Flow is unobstructed in openings (grates, orifices, etc)	S U	
Structures are operational with no evidence of deterioration	S U	
7. Vegetation removal (once every 3 years)		
Prune dead, diseased, or decaying plants	S U	
Corrective Action Needed		Due Date
1.		
2.		
3.		