

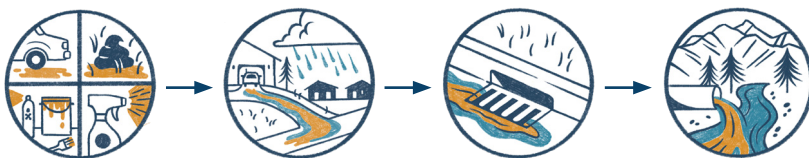
Maintaining Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs)

Frequently Asked Questions

This document answers common questions SCM Owners or SCM Maintenance teams may have pertaining to the operation and maintenance of stormwater control measures (SCMs) and City of Boulder requirements. Owners are responsible for maintaining SCMs on their property through the City's MS4 Permit. It is recommended that this information be shared with property managers and maintenance personnel responsible for landscape upkeep.

Why does stormwater runoff require treatment?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or snowmelt that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops over bare soil, lawns, and paved areas like parking lots collecting animal waste, litter, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, grease, soil and other potential pollutants. Stormwater runoff then carries these pollutants into the storm drainage system, which drains directly into our local creeks without receiving any treatment. Untreated stormwater runoff from your property can negatively impact aquatic life, water quality, wildlife, and recreational activities in our local streams.



What maintenance activities do SCMs require?

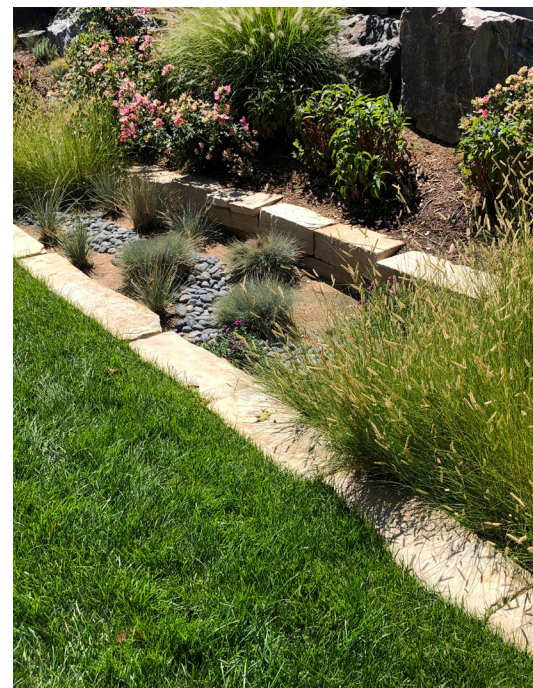
The types of maintenance activities needed depends on the SCM. Routine maintenance activities typically involve actions such as removing sediment and trash, mowing grass, and maintaining healthy vegetation. Routine maintenance takes place throughout the year and can be completed by property owners, maintenance personnel, or landscapers who understand the SCM functions. Depending on the severity of damage, rehabilitative maintenance involving replacement or repair may also be needed when facility elements break or are not functioning properly. Replacement may involve digging up the facility, removing broken or non-working pieces, and then replacing the components entirely. Routine maintenance can help prevent the need for costly major rehabilitative maintenance.

The City of Boulder has created recommended maintenance schedules for each SCM type available on the city's [Design and Construction Standards Website](#). You can also reach out to stormwaterquality@bouldercolorado.gov if you are interested in receiving a maintenance guide specific to the facilities on your property.

What is a Stormwater Control Measure (SCM)?

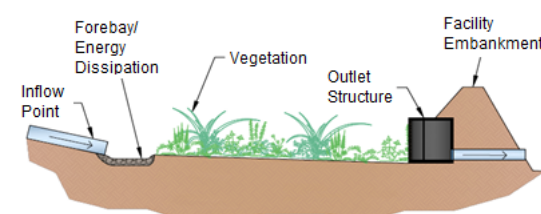
An SCM is a facility that treats stormwater runoff before it leaves a property. Examples of SCMs, also referred to as best management practices (BMPs), include:

- Extended detention basins
- Permeable pavement systems
- Bioretention areas
- Underground water quality units.



How do SCMs work?

SCMs treat stormwater runoff by capturing sediment, pollutants, oil, gas, and trash in the facility before water leaves the property or by reducing the amount of runoff by capturing water so it can infiltrate into the ground. SCMs require regular maintenance to keep the facility functioning and treating runoff.



How are SCM maintenance needs determined?

Property owners are responsible for conducting an annual inspection of all SCMs on their property. The city has prepared inspection forms for each SCM type. The inspection forms list elements that need to be checked during an inspection. Inspection forms are available on the city's [Design and Construction Standards Website](#).

City of Boulder Stormwater Quality staff will also conduct periodic oversight inspections of SCMs and will notify the owner when corrective action is required. City staff will notify the owner when an inspection will occur.

What happens if SCMs are not maintained?

Failure to maintain SCMs can result in loss of function of the facility and the release of pollutants to downstream waterways. Neglecting routine maintenance can also lead to compounding issues resulting in increased long-term damage and repair costs. The city has the authority to issue enforcement action, including civil penalties and/or criminal prosecution when SCM maintenance has been neglected.

What are your responsibilities as an SCM owner?

Owners of SCMs are required to conduct an annual inspection of SCMs and implement maintenance actions to keep the facility functioning as designed. Functioning as designed means that the facility components, size, shape, and drainage patterns remain as specified in the approved drainage report and construction drawings for the property.

Requirements of owners pertaining to the operation and maintenance of SCMs is specified in Section 11-5-6 of the **Boulder Revised Code** (BRC) and Chapter 7.18 of the City of Boulder Design and Construction Standards (DCS).



These rain gardens are examples of SCMs that are well maintained and in good condition. On the left, embankments of the garden are fully vegetated and maintained, garden vegetation is healthy and free of weeds. On the right, the curb cut is clear of trash and debris, garden is free of trash and has healthy vegetation.

Resources for SCM Owners

Visit the Boulder Water Utilities Department Webpage: www.bouldercolorado.gov/services/stormwater-quality-program

Contact Stormwater Quality Staff: StormwaterQuality@bouldercolorado.gov

City of Boulder Design and Construction Standards: bouldercolorado.gov/design-and-construction-standards-and-related-files | *SCM Inspection and Maintenance Forms can be found in DCS Stormwater Checklists and Templates, located at the bottom of the website.*

Boulder Revised Code: library.municode.com/co/boulder/codes/municipal_code
SCM owner inspection and maintenance requirements are detailed in Section 11-5-6.