

# **FLOW-THROUGH PLANTER**

STORMWATER TREATMENT MEASURE



What is a stormwater treatment measure?

Stormwater treatment measures are engineered systems that remove pollutants from stormwater before it reaches a storm drain, creek, or the San Francisco Bay. These measures are required by the City of Burlingame through the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit. As an owner of one of more of these measures, the City requires you to perform routine inspections and maintenance actions to ensure that your treatment measures are operating effectively.

Be the solution to water pollution.



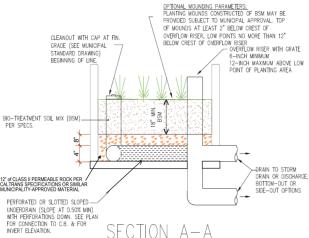
Only rain down the drain

Flow-Through Planters treat and detain runoff without seepage into the underlying soil. They typically receive runoff via downspouts leading from the roofs of adjacent buildings. However, flow-through planters can also be set with the ground and receive sheet flow.

Pollutants are removed as the runoff passes through the soil layer and is collected in an underlying layer of gravel or drain rock.

A perforated pipe underdrain must be directed to a storm drain or other discharge point. An overflow inlet is installed to convey flows that exceed the capacity of the planter.





## How do I find my stormwater treatment measure?

To find your stormwater treatment measure, look for a concrete planter. Some planters may have disconnected downspouts leading into the planter or a short curb opening that allows for rainwater to drain into the planter.

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MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

#### How do I maintain it?

Maintenance objectives include maintaining healthy vegetation at an appropriate size; avoiding clogging; and ensuring the structural integrity of the planter and the proper functioning of inlets, outlets, and the overflow inlet. It is recommended that certain maintenance tasks be conducted monthly, annually before the rainy season (i.e. October 1st), annually after the rainy season (i.e., April 30th), and after large storm events:

- **Inspect planter surface area, inlets, and outlets** and remove any obstructions and trash.
- Inspect planter for standing water. If standing water does not drain within 2-3 days, the surface biotreatment soil should be tilled or replaced with the approved biotreatment soil and replanted with vegetation. Use the cleanout riser to clear any underdrains of obstructions or clogging material. If mosquito larvae are observed, contact the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District at 650-344-8592.
- **Ensure that vegetation is healthy and dense** enough to provide filtering and protect soils from erosion.
- **Prune and weed the planter.** Remove and replace any dead plants.
- Do not use pesticides or other chemical applications for any reason including treating diseased plants, controlling weeds, or removing unwanted growth.
- **Inspect the overflow pipe** to make sure that it can safely convey excess flows to a storm drain. Repair or replace any damaged or disconnected piping. Use the cleanout riser to clear underdrains of obstructions or clogging material.
- **Inspect the energy dissipater** (e.g. cobble rocks) at the inlet to ensure it is functioning adequately, and that there is no scour of the surface mulch. Remove any accumulation of sediment.
- **Inspect and replace wood mulch**, if needed. It is recommended that 2 to 3 inches of composted arbor mulch be applied once a year.

## Annual self-certification

Every year the Stormwater Program will send you a maintenance verification checklist for you to complete, sign, and return to the City. This form is used to verify that necessary maintenance has been completed for your treatment device.

Failure to conduct needed maintenance on all of your stormwater treatment measures may initiate an enforcement investigation or a follow-up inspection.

#### What do I need to do?

**Step 1:** Locate all of your stormwater treatment measures.

**Step 2:** Inspect and maintain your stormwater treatment measures.

**Step 3:** Take photos of your stormwater treatment measures.

**Step 4:** Submit your completed maintenance verification checklist and photos to the City.



### Stormwater Program

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