

Stormwater Control Measures (SCM)

What is Bioretention?

A bioretention basin, or rain garden, is a hole filled with native plants and special soil mix. It collects and slows flow of stormwater runoff and removes pollutants.



Properly maintained



Improperly maintained—erosion, dead plants

Maintaining and Inspecting Your Stormwater Control Measure

Property owners are responsible for inspecting and maintaining SCMs on their property. A maintenance and inspection document for your SCM is included with your property deed. These documents are available through the Metro Nashville Register of Deeds.

Typical Inspection and Maintenance Concerns Include:

- Observe the bed, do the plants look healthy? Is there any erosion? Is there any standing water? Is there any trash? Does the mulch or stone need to be replaced? (Note: if new mulch or stone is needed, the old layer should be removed so the ponding volume of the pond is not reduced.)
- Inspect outlet- check to see if it is clogged with trash, sediment (soil), or plants.
- How long does it take to drain? Visit the bioretention site within 24 hours of a rain storm and see if there is ponding. Is there evidence that water is bypassing around the bioretention basin?
- If maintenance needs are identified during the inspection, ensure that it is performed in a timely manner to prevent larger problems from occurring in the future.

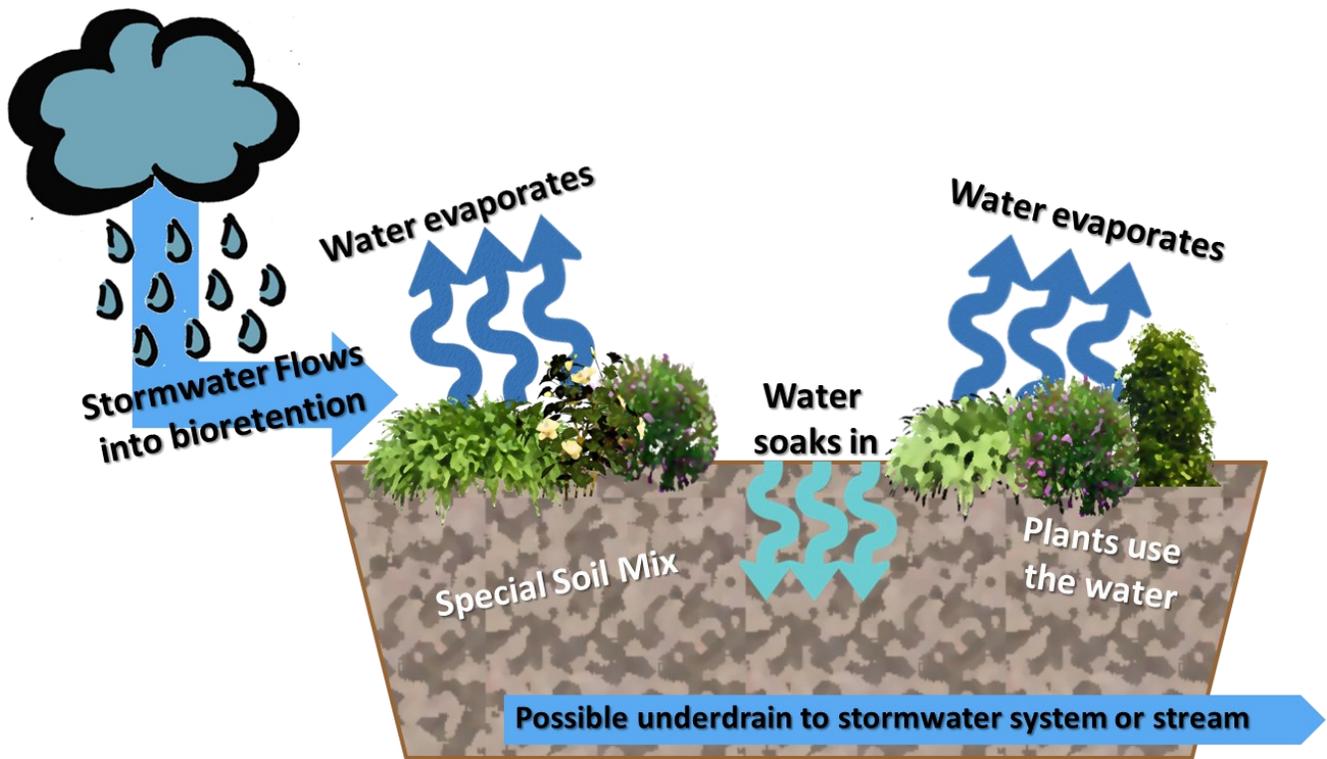
For detailed inspection and maintenance requirements of your specific SCM, see maintenance agreement document filed with your property deed.

For more information visit scm.nashville.gov

or call Metro Water Services at (615) 880-2420.



How does Bioretention work?



Stormwater runoff soaks into the special soil mix in the bioretention area. Carefully chosen plants, usually native plants, take up the water. During the average rain, excess water either soaks into the soil or drains out through underdrains to the stormwater system. In the case of a large storm, water will safely flow out of the basin.

Bioretention Types



Large Commercial Basin



Small Tree/
Planter Boxes



Small Rain Gardens



Streetscapes