

## Whose BMP is it?

It's important to locate any BMPs on your property and determine who is responsible for maintenance. It may be a homeowners association, municipality, or the individual homeowner.

## Is it your BMP?

If the BMP is your responsibility, a few simple actions now can save you from damages and costs in the future:

1. Create a routine checklist and maintenance plan.
2. Determine maintenance procedure(s) and develop a schedule.

## Common Stormwater Basin Maintenance Needs:

- Conduct routine mowing
- Keep side slopes stable
- Fill animal burrows
- Remove sediment
- Manage vegetation
- Seed and stabilize bare spots
- Keep free of debris/remove trash
- Keep spillways and outlets clear.

For more detailed information on stormwater BMPs and maintenance, refer to the MA Department of Environmental Protection's Stormwater Manual Volume 2: Chapter 2 ([www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/laws/i-thru-z/v2c2.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/laws/i-thru-z/v2c2.pdf)).

Please contact DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection if you would like a BMP inspection record sheet for pre- and post-construction structures.

*The costs of not maintaining stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) structures can be devastating to a business, community, neighborhood, or homeowner. Improper maintenance of BMPs not only decreases their efficiency for removing pollutants, but can also create environmental hazards such as flooding and contamination. Investing in routine inspections and maintenance can reduce liability and the risk of expensive repairs for the property owner or manager.*

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# Stormwater Basins and the Importance of Routine Maintenance



**State and federal laws require inspection and maintenance of stormwater control structures.**

## What are those ponds and swales?

Have you ever wondered why there is a vegetated or stone-lined channel, constructed pond, or a grassed depression (called a swale) in your neighborhood or perhaps even on your property?



These facilities and structures are most likely stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs reduce the negative water quality impacts of stormwater runoff from developed areas. BMPs are installed as part of the state's stormwater protection regulations. They are also a component of the federal Clean Water Act.

*Without regular maintenance, stormwater BMPs will not function properly and could lead to a violation of federal or state environmental laws!*

## What's a BMP do?

BMPs are designed to reduce pollutants – including sediment, oil, grease, and nutrients – in stormwater runoff from entering into surface waters. Stormwater pollutants can impact streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and wells. Stormwater runoff within the Wachusett Reservoir watershed ultimately ends up in the drinking water supply for more than 2 million people.

BMPs may not function properly without regular maintenance. Forgoing routine up-keep may also lead to future additional, and potentially expensive, repair costs to the BMP as well as damage to personal property.

## Stormwater BMPs:

**Help this...**



**...function like this!**



*Maintenance needs vary according to the type of BMP. Property owners should inspect their structures every few months and after significant rainfall.*