

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What are Structural Best Management Practices?

A. Structural best management practices (BMPs) are permanent storm water treatment features incorporated into the design of many newly developed or redeveloped properties. Their purpose is to reduce the amount of pollutants that are carried off of a site by storm water runoff. There are many different types of Structural BMPs including manufactured devices placed inside drainage structures as well as specially engineered landscape features. Explore the other links on this website to see examples of different types of Structural BMPs.

Q. I have Structural BMPs on my property. What am I required to do?

A. The property owner or operator is required to perform regular inspections and maintenance of their Structural BMPs to ensure that they continue to function properly. Once a year, they are also required to certify that these activities are being performed by completing and submitting the “Annual Maintenance Verification Form” that is sent out by the City.

Q. Does the City inspect the Structural BMPs on my property?

A. The City perform periodic inspections to verify that BMPs are properly maintained. These inspections are not a substitution for the regular inspection and maintenance activities that the owner or operator is required to conduct, and the City will take enforcement action if deficiencies are observed during their inspections.

Q. How do I perform maintenance and how frequently must I do it?

A. Common maintenance activities include removing materials that have accumulated in the BMP, repairing or replacing damaged components, and properly managing vegetation. However, the types of required maintenance activities vary with different types of Structural BMPs. Explore the other links on this website for more information about typical maintenance activities associated with different types of BMPs. The frequency of maintenance will depend both on the type of BMP as well as the amount of materials that are being transported to the BMP by storm water runoff. It is advisable to inspect BMPs after each storm event to assess whether maintenance is needed.

Q. How do I find out what types of Structural BMPs are on my property and where they are located?

A. If you received the “Annual Maintenance Verification Form” in the mail, it will list the types of BMPs that are on your property. If the City’s inspection consultant has visited your site in the past, this form will also list the location of each BMP and its approximate coordinates. (Tip: You can enter the coordinates into the search field of most online mapping sites).

Q. How may I acquire more information from the City regarding this program?

A. Contact the “Storm Water Main Line” at 858-541-4300 and ask to speak with a member of the “Structural BMP Inspection Section”.