



Rain cannot soak into the ground when it falls on hard surfaces like parking lots. Instead, it "runs off" into a storm drain or ditch. This stormwater runoff is captured and eventually reaches our creeks and lakes.

A bioretention cell, or rain garden, is a type of Stormwater Control Measure (SCM). It is designed to capture runoff, remove pollutants and release stormwater slowly before it reaches our waterways.

How does it work?

Most bioretention cell systems consist of three main components that help treat stormwater:

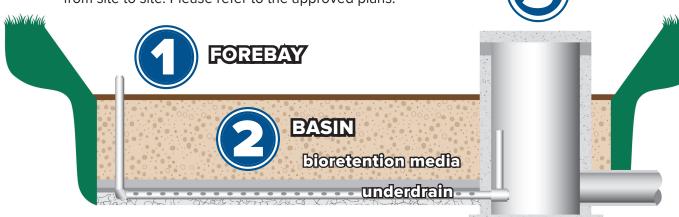
The first section, the forebay, removes floating materials and heavy sediments.

The **basin** is the section where filtration occurs.
Additional pollutants and finer sediments are removed by filtering the runoff through the bioretention media.
The main basin may have native plants and mulch, sod or gravel.

The outlet structure controls how fast the water leaves the basin and enters the storm drainage system.

Bioretention Cell Example

Note: Specific details of each bioretention cell can vary from site to site. Please refer to the approved plans.



Bioretention Cell Maintenance Property Owner's Tasks and Schedule



Note: Inspect quarterly and within 24 hours after every storm event greater than one inch. Maintenance tasks may need to be performed more frequently to ensure the sand filter is functioning appropriately.

TASKS: QUARTERLY (and after heavy rainfall)

- Maintain vegetation (if applicable). Refer to approved planting plan for the bioretention cell for a list of all the plantings that should be present.
- Remove trash and debris.
- Repair erosion.
- Clean the outlet and inlet.
- Remove weeds, preferably by hand.

TASKS: ANNUAL

• A qualified inspector should inspect the bioretention cell and all structural components once per year for cracks, leaks and other deficiencies.

Additional recommendations

- Do NOT drive heavy equipment over a bioretention cell.
- A soil test should be performed as required, and media may need to be replaced if testing shows high phosphorus concentration.
- No standing water should be present more than 5 days after a storm event.

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