

UrbanPond[®]
Maintenance Manual



UrbanPond® Inspection & Maintenance

Inspection and maintenance of the Urban Pond underground detention, retention, or infiltration system is vital for the performance and life cycle of the stormwater management system. All local, state, and federal permits and regulations must be followed for system compliance. Manway access locations are provided on each system for ease of ingress and egress for routine inspection and maintenance activities. Stormwater regulations require that most BMPs be inspected and maintained to ensure they are operating as designed and providing protection to receiving water bodies. It is recommended that inspections be performed multiple times during the first year to assess the site specific conditions. Inspection after the first significant rainfall event and at semiannual intervals is typical. This is recommended because pollutant loading and pollutant characteristics can vary greatly from site to site. Variables such as nearby soil erosion or construction sites, winter sanding on roads, amount of daily traffic and land use can increase pollutant loading on the system. The first year of inspections can be used to set inspection and maintenance intervals for subsequent years to ensure appropriate maintenance is provided. Without appropriate maintenance a BMP can exceed its storage capacity, become blocked, or damaged, which can negatively affect its continued performance.

Inspection Equipment

Following is a list of equipment to allow for simple and effective inspection of the underground detention, retention, or infiltration system:

- Contech Inspection and Maintenance Report Form
- Flashlight
- Manhole hook or appropriate tools to access hatches and covers
- Appropriate traffic control signage and procedures
- Measuring pole and/or tape measure
- Protective clothing and eye protection
- Note: Entering a confined space requires appropriate safety and certification. It is generally not required for routine inspections of the system.



Inspection Steps

The key to any successful stormwater BMP maintenance program is routine inspections. The inspection steps required on the Urban Pond underground detention, retention, or infiltration system are quick and easy. As mentioned above, the first year should be seen as the maintenance interval establishment phase. During the first year more frequent inspections should occur in order to gather loading data and maintenance requirements for that specific site. This information can be used to establish a base for long term inspection and maintenance interval requirements.

The Urban Pond underground detention, retention, or infiltration system can be inspected through visual observation without entry into the system. All necessary pre-inspection steps must be carried out before inspection occurs, especially traffic control and other safety measures to protect the inspector and nearby pedestrians from any dangers associated with an open access hatch or manhole. Once these access covers have been safely opened, the inspection process can proceed:

- Prepare the inspection form by writing in the necessary information including project name, location, date & time, unit number and other information (see inspection form).
- Observe the upstream drainage area and look for sources of pollution, sediment, trash and debris.
- Observe the inside of the system through the access manholes. If minimal light is available and vision into the unit is impaired, utilize a flashlight to see inside the system and all of its modules.
- Look for any out of the ordinary obstructions in the inflow and outflow pipes. Check pipes for movement or leakage. Write down any observations on the inspection form.
- Observe any movement of modules.
- Observe concrete for cracks and signs of deterioration.
- In detention and retention systems inspect for any signs of leakage.
- In infiltration systems inspect for any signs of blockage or reasons that the soils are not infiltrating.
- Through observation and/or digital photographs, estimate the amount of floatable debris accumulated in the system. Record this information on the inspection form. Next, utilizing a tape measure or measuring stick, estimate the amount of sediment accumulated in the system. Sediment depth may vary throughout the system, depending on the flow path. Record this depth on the inspection form.
- Finalize inspection report for analysis by the maintenance manager to determine if maintenance is required.

Maintenance Indicators

Based upon observations made during inspection, maintenance of the system may be required based on the following indicators:

- Damaged inlet and outlet pipes.
- Obstructions in the system or its inlet or outlet.
- Excessive accumulation of floatables.
- Excessive accumulation of sediment of more than 6" in depth.
- Damaged joint sealant.

Maintenance Equipment

While maintenance can be done fully by hand it is recommended that a vacuum truck be utilized to minimize time requirements required to maintain the Urban Pond underground detention, retention, or infiltration system:

- Contech Inspection and Maintenance Report Form
- Flashlight
- Manhole hook or appropriate tools to access hatches and covers
- Appropriate traffic control signage and procedures

- Measuring pole and/or tape measure
- Protective clothing and eye protection
- Vacuum truck
- Trash can
- Pressure washer
- Note: Entering a confined space requires appropriate safety and certification. It is generally not required for routine inspections of the system. Entry into the system will be required if maintenance is required.

Maintenance Procedures

It is recommended that maintenance occurs at least three days after the most recent rain event to allow for drain down of the system and any upstream detention systems designed to drain down over an extended period of time. Maintaining the system while flows are still entering it will increase the time and complexity required for maintenance. Once all safety measures have been set up, cleaning of the system can proceed as follows:

- Using an extension on a boom on the vacuum truck, position the hose over the opened manway and lower into the system. Remove all floating debris, standing water (as needed) and sediment from the system. A power washer can be used to assist if sediments have become hardened and stuck to the walls and columns. Repeat the same procedure at each manway until the system has been fully maintained. Be sure not to pressure wash the infiltration area as it may scour. Pressure washing is acceptable for concrete base modules and base slabs only; do not use on systems with gravel bedding. Do not vacuum up the infiltration stone or wash accumulated solids into the stone via pressure washing.

If maintenance requires entry into the vault:

- Following rules for confined space entry use a gas meter to detect the presence of any hazardous gases. If hazardous gases are present do not enter the vault. Follow appropriate confined space procedures, such as utilizing venting system, to address the hazard. Once it is determined to be safe, enter utilizing appropriate entry equipment such as a ladder and tripod with harness.
- The last step is to close up and replace all manhole covers and remove all traffic control.
- All removed debris and pollutants shall be disposed of following local and state requirements.



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