

# Vegetation in Swales and Ponds

Beth Conyers

Maintaining the vegetation in your stormwater facility helps to keep it looking good and functioning properly.

Your stormwater facility was designed to function with specific plants growing. Managing vegetation in your facility requires routine attention throughout the year. Contact your local jurisdiction for vegetation requirements and before using any herbicide.

## Where to find it:

All vegetation within your facility. Check with your local jurisdiction for standards.

## Before:

The grass in this swale is 10" high and some weeds exist.



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## When to maintain it:

Routine maintenance is needed year-round and varies by season.

## After:

Grass mowed to 5" and clippings removed or blown on side slopes. Weeds are removed.



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# PRIVATE STORMWATER FACILITY MAINTENANCE

## What you'll need:

- gloves and PPE
- mower (push or riding)
- weed eater
- pruners
- rake or blower

*Severely overgrown vegetation may require a brush hog and/or excavator.*



**Grass:** Keep side slopes below 12" and swale bottom 3-6". Clear vegetation around structures.



**Bare spots:** Install sod, spread grass seed or hydroseed grass. Result must be lush grass.



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**Weeds:** Identify weeds to learn how best to control them. Contact your local jurisdiction before using any herbicides.



**Trees:** Remove trees early. Some may require herbicide to prevent sprouting. Contact your jurisdiction about herbicide use.



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Find a list of contractors: [www.stormwaterpartners.com/contractors](http://www.stormwaterpartners.com/contractors)

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