



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Stormwater Treatment:  
 Assessment and Maintenance**

**Field Data Sheet for Level 1 Assessment: Visual Inspection  
 Filter Strips and Swales**

Inspector's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of the filter strip or swale: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address or Intersection: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Latitude, Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date the filter strip or swale began operation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size of the practice. Depth and length, if swale (ft.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area (ft. x ft.), if filter strip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time since last rainfall (hr): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quantity of last rainfall (in): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rainfall Measurement Location: \_\_\_\_\_

*Site Sketch (include inlets, outlets, roads, north arrow, etc.)*

Based on visual assessment of the site, answer the following questions and make photographic or video-graphic documentation:

1. Has visual inspection been conducted at this location before?  Yes  No  I don't know
  1. a) If yes, enter date: \_\_\_\_\_
  1. b) Based on previous visual inspections, have any corrective actions been taken?  
 Yes  No  I don't know (If yes, describe actions in comments box)
2. Has it rained within the last 48 hours at this location?  Yes  No  I don't know
3. Does this swale or filter strip utilize pretreatment practices upstream?  
 Yes  No  I don't know (If yes, describe pretreatment practices in comment box)
4. Access
  4. a) Access to the swale or filter strip is:  
 Clear  Partially obstructed  Mostly obstructed  Inaccessible
  4. b) If obstructed, the obstruction is (choose and provide comments) :  
 temporary **and**  no action needed **or**  action needed  
 permanent **and**  before or during installation **or**  new since installation
  4. c) Access to the upstream and downstream drainage is:  
 Clear  Partially obstructed  Mostly obstructed  Inaccessible
  4. d) If obstructed, the obstruction is (choose and provide comments) :  
 temporary **and**  no action needed **or**  action needed  
 permanent **and**  before or during installation **or**  new since installation

Comments

Biologically Enhanced Practices

Comments

5. a) How many inlet structures are present?  0  1  2  3  4  5  > 5
5. b) Are any of the inlet structures clogged? (If yes, mark location on site sketch above and fill in boxes below with items causing clogging (ie. debris, sediment, vegetation, etc.)

	Inlet #:	Inlet #:	Inlet #:	Inlet #:	Inlet #:
Partially					
Completely					
Not Applicable					

5. c) Are any of the inlet structures askew or misaligned from the original design or otherwise in need of maintenance? (if yes, write in reason: frost heave, vandalism, unknown, etc.)

	Inlet #:	Inlet #:	Inlet #:	Inlet #:	Inlet #:
Reason					

6. Is there standing water in the swale or on the filter strip?  Yes  No
6. a) If yes, does the water have:
- Surface sheen (from oils or gasoline)
  - Murky color (from suspended solids)
  - Green color (from algae or other biological activity)
  - Other (describe in comment box)
7. Is there evidence of illicit storm sewer discharges?
- Yes  No  I don't know (if yes, describe in comment box)
8. What is the approximate percentage of vegetation coverage in the practice? \_\_\_\_\_ %
8. a) Does the current vegetation match the original design?  Yes  No  Unknown
8. b) Is there the presence of:
- Weeds
  - Invasive vegetation
  - None of the above
  - Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_
8. c) Does the vegetation appear to be healthy?  Yes  No (if no, describe in comment box)
8. d) Is the vegetation the appropriate size and density?  Yes  No (if no, describe in comment box)
9. Are there indications of any of the following within the filter strip or swale? (If yes, mark on site sketch)
- Sediment deposition
  - Erosion or channelization
  - Excessive or undesirable vegetation (that needs mowing or removal)
  - Bare soil or lack of healthy vegetation significantly different from the original design
  - Litter or debris
  - Other
  - No

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Comments

9. a) If sediment deposition is evident, what is the source?

- Erosion or channelization inside the wet pond
- Erosion or channelization outside the wet pond
- Construction site erosion
- Other
- Unknown

10. Are there indications of any of the following on the banks of the swale:

- Erosion or channelization
- Soil slides or bulges
- Excessive animal burrows
- Seeps and wet spots
- Poorly vegetated areas
- Trees on constructed slopes
- Not applicable

11. Are any overflow or outlet structures clogged?  No  Partially  Completely  NA

11. a) If yes, specify the clogging material (i.e. debris, sediment, vegetation, etc.) in the box below.

	Outlet #:	Outlet #:	Outlet #:
Material			
Partial or Comp.			

11. b) Are any of the overflow structures askew or misaligned from the original design or otherwise in need of maintenance? (if yes, write in reason: frost heave, vandalism, unknown, etc.)

	Outlet #:	Outlet #:	Outlet #:
Reason			

12. Is there any evidence of any of the following downstream of the outlet structure?

- Sediment deposition
- Erosion or channelization
- Other
- No

12. a) If sediment deposition is evident, what is the source?

- Erosion or channelization inside the filtration practice
- Erosion or channelization outside the filtration practice
- Construction site erosion
- Other, Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Unknown

13. Inspector's Recommendations. When is maintenance needed?

- Before the next rainfall
- Before the next rainy season
- Within a year or two
- No sign that any is required

12. Summarize the results of this inspection and write any other observations in the box below.

***Summary and other observations***

