

# Bioretention/Detention Basins

## Your Bioretention/Detention Basin BMPs Keep Our Waterways Clean

Stormwater Structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed on many properties in the City to help prevent pollutants such as trash, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment from making their way into storm drains and ultimately to our local creeks, lagoons, and the Pacific Ocean.

City records indicate that you have at least one bioretention/detention basin BMP on your property.

City of Vista municipal code *requires owners of Stormwater Structural BMPs to perform routine inspections and maintenance actions to ensure that the systems continue to function effectively year-round.*

This factsheet provides guidance for understanding and maintaining your BMP(s).

### Example of Bioretention/Detention BMP

Bioretention/detention BMPs are designed to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff.



**If you have any questions,  
please contact the City of Vista**

Stormwater & Water Quality  
Protection Program Hotline

P (760) 643-2804

E [waterquality@cityofvista.com](mailto:waterquality@cityofvista.com)

[www.cityofvista.com/stormwater](http://www.cityofvista.com/stormwater)



## Maintenance Checklist

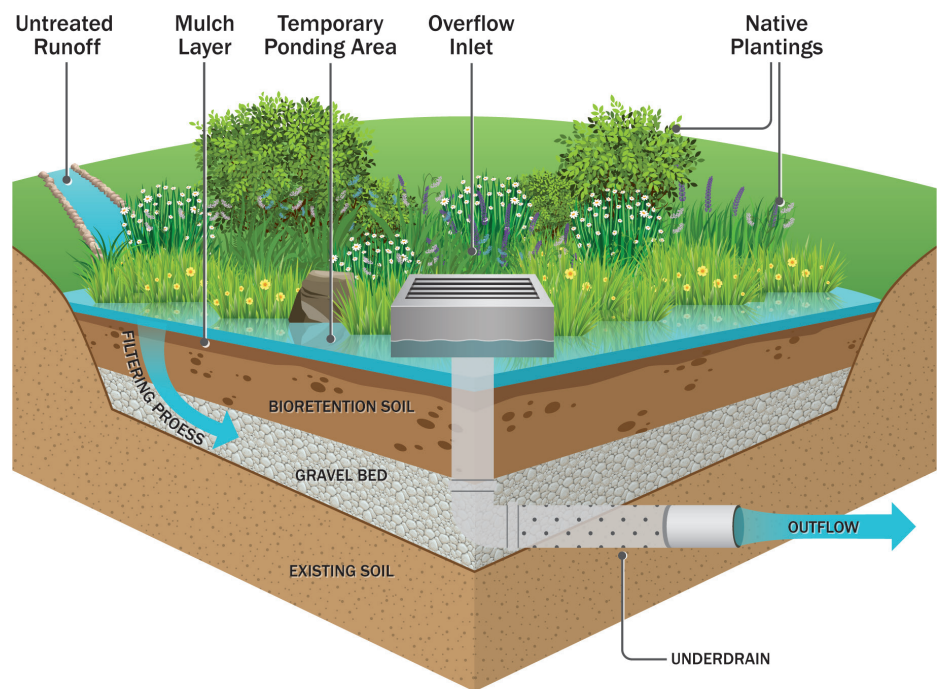
- ✓ It is recommended that there is at least 90% plant coverage for the most effective BMP
- ✓ Remove any litter or debris accumulating in the basin or where water enters or exits the basin
- ✓ Trim overgrown vegetation prior to the rainy season (October 1st – April 30th)
- ✓ Fill areas where water may pool for longer than 96 hours to reduce areas for mosquito breeding
- ✓ Stabilize eroded areas on basin floors and slopes and provide adequate riprap (rocks that control and slow down flow) at the point where runoff enters the BMP
- ✓ Remove obstructions of any existing curb cuts (entry points to your basin) or divert water flow away from the basin
- ✓ Refer to maintenance plans provided by your property developer to ensure any site-specific maintenance tasks are addressed any site-specific maintenance tasks are addressed

Properties with BMPs are subject to annual verification of maintenance or inspection by City of Vista staff. Failure to maintain functional BMPs at your property may initiate additional follow-up investigation and enforcement action.

# How Do Bioretention/Detention Basins Work?

Bioretention basins use vegetation and layers of soil, sand, and gravel to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. As water moves through the different layers, pollutants are filtered out before replenishing groundwater or discharging to the storm drain system.

Detention basins protect against flooding by temporarily storing stormwater runoff on your property before discharging to the local storm drain system. While the water is held in the above-ground basin, pollutants settle to the bottom, and the remaining water is slowly released to the storm drain system.



## Find and Maintain Your Bioretention/Detention Basins

To find your bioretention/detention basin, look for a low-lying area where water accumulates after rainfall. Depending on what type of basin you have, there may be a storm drain catch basin in the center of the area.



### Once You Have Found Your Bioretention/Detention Basin

It is important to inspect and maintain it regularly. Keeping the bioretention/detention basin in working condition helps keep our local waterways clean.