

CHECKLIST FOR INSPECTION OF BIORETENTION SYSTEM/TREE FILTERS

Location: University of Chicago, Keller Center, 1307 E 60th St.

Inspector: Chris Bourbois

Date: July 27th 2023

Time: 4 PM

Site Conditions: Sunny, 89°

Days Since Last Rain Event: 1

Inspection Items	Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U)	Comments/Corrective Action
1. Initial Inspection After Planting		This area is well vegetated and all installed plants appear healthy. There is no evidence of erosion or preferential flow. The outlet comes from a higher elevation and is functional and unblocked.
Plants are stable, roots not exposed	Ⓢ U	
Surface is at design level, no evidence of preferential flow/shoving	Ⓢ U	
Inlet and outlet/bypass are functional	Ⓢ U	
2. Debris Cleanup (1 time/year minimum, Spring/Fall)		No dead vegetation, litter, or excess leaves on site. No mowing needed, as vegetation is almost entirely native and there are no stands of invasives where mowing would be beneficial.
Litter, leaves, and dead vegetation removed from the system	Ⓢ U	
Prune/mow vegetation	Ⓢ U	
3. Standing Water (1 time/year and/or after large storms)		No standing or pooled water one day after rain. Rock structure is in good shape and particularly important at a site like this, where water drops down to site from a higher level's drain. Erosion would likely be significant without rocks dissipating impact.
No evidence of standing water after 24-48 hours since rainfall	Ⓢ U	
4. Vegetation Condition and Coverage		Vegetation condition is very good overall at this site and easily covers more than 75% of area. Vegetation includes sedges, geraniums, milkweed, giant hyssop, wild onion, brome, and a mix of ornamental grasses and shrubs. However, there are some early populations of thistle and nightshade. The thistle is the more pressing issue of the two, but both populations are small and manageable.
Vegetation condition good with good coverage (typically >75%)	Ⓢ U	
5. Other Issues		

Note any additional issues not previously covered	S U	
Final Comments		
<p>This site is in very good shape overall. Vegetation is dense enough that there are no erosional or flow issues. The areas that are not vegetated are also either well mulched or covered in large rocks meant to dissipate the energy of water flowing into the system. The site is clean and contains no dead leaves, dead vegetation, or litter. The vegetation on site is nearly all native or ornamental. There is a nice mix of sedges, forbs, and grasses (with a further mix of natives and ornamentals within that). Native vegetation density is also higher here than at many other sites. This has a dual benefit, in that it helps pool and filter the rainwater that collects here, while also allowing for less space for invasives. While the population of thistle on site is a concern and should be addressed, the density of the vegetation here means there are fewer areas for the thistle to colonize. Given the small number of thistle specimens at this point, a combination of hand-pulling and seedhead-cutting could eradicate the population fairly quickly. The nightshade on site will likely recede on its own, especially with further seeding/plug planting, or if the numerous healthy native plants on site continue to seed and spread.</p>		