

CHECKLIST FOR INSPECTION OF BIORETENTION SYSTEM/TREE FILTERS

Location: Park No. 571, 2754 S Eleanor St.

Inspector: Chris Bourbois

Date: July 24th 2023

Time: 1 PM

Site Conditions: Sunny, 85°

Days Since Last Rain Event: 1

Inspection Items	Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U)	Comments/Corrective Action
1. Initial Inspection After Planting		Plants on site are stable and generally healthy. Some wilting is evident, so more watering may be beneficial, especially for the river birch. However, the dry summer may be the culprit here and wilting is not necessarily indicative of problems. No evidence of preferential flow in plots or near drain.
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 litter or vegetative debris on site. Vegetation is not dense enough to benefit from mowing and river birch is not in need of pruning.
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. Outlet drain is surrounded by rocks, dissipating force of stormwater and likely preventing erosional problems.
No evidence of standing water after 24-48 hours since rainfall	Ⓢ U	
4. Vegetation Condition and Coverage		Vegetation condition is generally good. However, more wilting was noticed at this site than at others on the same day. More watering would likely be useful, given that the plug plantings and river birch still seem fairly new. The river birch is also a good choice for a rain garden and the planted plugs are good choices and native species. Vegetative coverage is less than 75%, although mulch covers all non-vegetated areas, which is a better situation than bare ground.
Vegetation condition good with good coverage (typically >75%)	S Ⓢ	
Final Comments		

This site seems to still be in its infancy but is in fairly good shape. Plant choices are good, with a river birch being a strong choice for a rain garden. Native plugs are also a good choice, with species like foxglove beardtongue, hyssop, pale purple coneflower, milkweed, and nodding onion on site. There are no real invasive species concerns either. The outlet drain is surrounded by rocks, the site is well mulched, and there is no evidence of erosion or preferential flow. These factors put this site in a very strong position. The main areas for improvement are increasing the vegetative coverage and watering the site more (although this may not be necessary with a less-dry summer). An overseeding of additional native species (especially grasses) would likely be helpful. On the other hand, it appears that the site stewards may be hoping that the planted plugs will eventually fill out the site. This is not a bad idea, but more watering would definitely be helpful if that is the plan. In either case, mulch is only preferable to vegetative coverage if the vegetation would be invasive species or if the area might not support vegetation well (like under the river birch). Therefore, trading mulch for increased native species coverage is the obvious next step here.