

CHECKLIST FOR INSPECTION OF BIORETENTION SYSTEM/TREE FILTERS

Location: Cogle Foods, 2801 S. Ashland Ave, N 41.841155949, W -87.665351506

Inspector: Chris Bourbois

Date: June 14th, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM

Site Conditions: Cloudy, 70°

Days Since Last Rain Event: 1

Inspection Items	Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory	Comments/Corrective Action
1. Initial Inspection After Planting		Installed trees and plants are generally healthy, although the maple may not be the best choice for a rain garden. The bald cypress on site is a much better choice for an area designed to absorb water. The area surrounding the drain is well vegetated.
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 vegetative debris on site. Trees do not need pruning; mowing would likely not be beneficial at this site.
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. No evidence of erosion or prior standing water surrounding drain outlet drain.
No evidence of standing water after 24-48 hours since rainfall	Ⓢ U	
4. Vegetation Condition and Coverage		Rain garden is fairly well vegetated, likely greater than 75% of area. Vegetation includes two young trees (maple and bald cypress), native forbs (including plenty of milkweed), some sedges in the interior area, and some weedier but not necessarily invasive species (like field pennycress and buckhorn plantain). More concerning are the beginnings of a yellow sweet clover infestation. Additionally, the goldenrod on site should be monitored to ensure it does not become a monoculture. Most of the goldenrod on site is tall goldenrod, but a more comprehensive inventory should confirm this before aggressive control is enacted.
Vegetation condition good with good coverage (typically >75%)	Ⓢ U	
5. Other Issues		
Note any additional issues not previously covered	Ⓢ U	

Final Comments

Overall, this rain garden is in fairly good shape. Although the maple tree could have been replaced by a better choice, a bald cypress tree is a perfect choice for a rain garden. Additionally, at least a few native species have established well here, with a few sedge species and a healthy amount of milkweed. There is no evidence of rutting or erosion from stormwater runoff, showing that the vegetation is effectively slowing down its impact. There are a few actions that could greatly improve the composition of the rain garden: First, the yellow sweet clover should be pulled mid-summer of next year, while flowering but before seeding. Second, the few areas of bare ground (one near the maple tree and another strip in the interior of the rain garden) should be overseeded or planted with plugs. If these plantings aren't successful, mulching and/or rock placements could prevent soil erosion and invasive species establishment. Finally, the goldenrod population on site should be monitored to identify goldenrod diversity and prevent a monoculture if tall goldenrod is the only variety on-site.