### Planter Box Inspection and Maintenance Recommendations

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<th>Inspection and Maintenance Activity</th>
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| **Debris accumulation**            | **Inspect:** Monthly during growing season and after major storm events  
**Maintain:** Spring and fall, monthly during growing season and after major storm events |

**Inspect:** fallen leaves, debris, and litter accumulation  
**Maintain:** remove these materials, especially before winter and in early spring; remove sediment especially when a few inches deep or is impacting growth of vegetation

| **Entry Points and Pretreatment**  | **Inspect:** Monthly and after major storm events, especially in spring and fall  
**Maintain:** Spring and fall, monthly during growing season and after major storm events |

**Inspect:** areas such as sumps and the planter box floor for excessive deposition of sediment; inspect for erosion at the points of inflow or within the ponding area  
**Maintain:** Remove sediment with a shovel, rake, or vacuum when accumulation impacts operation of system, stabilize any eroded areas using appropriate methods, and reestablish vegetation if needed

| **Newly Established / Young Plants** | **Inspect:** Monthly during growing season  
**Maintain:** Spring and fall, monthly during growing season |

**Inspect:** may have to keep planter box offline until plants have sufficient growth; inspect for at least 50 percent of specified vegetation cover at end of first growing season and at least 90 percent of specified vegetation cover after the end of the second growing season  
**Maintain:** supplement plantings to meet minimum cover objectives, pull undesired vegetation, minimize herbicide use

| **Established / Mature Plants and Trees** | **Inspect:** Monthly during the summer  
**Maintain:** Spring and fall, monthly during growing season; if desired, trim back plant vegetation in the fall, prune trees during the fall or winter |

**Inspect:** plant and tree health and for wilting young plants, weeds, and undesirable plants  
**Maintain:** remove undesirable plants, weeds, and tree saplings throughout growing season by pulling or trimming, prune and thin out plants as needed, replace plants when needed, herbicide use should be minimized

| **Inlets, Overflows, and Outlets** | **Inspect:** Spring and fall  
**Maintain:** Annually, especially during spring and fall |

**Inspect:** insure free flowing and working properly  
**Maintain:** remove any sediment, debris, and litter; repair or replace if damaged
**Observation Ports, if applicable**

**Inspect:** look for evidence of standing water in the observation port or outlet structure; standing water may be a sign of hydraulic failure  
**Maintain:** evaluate the cause of standing water, modified soil may need to be replaced entirely or partially depending on the extent of plugging  

**Inspect:** Annually  
**Maintain:** As needed

**Mulch**

**Inspect:** displacement might smother plants or clog outlets  
**Maintain:** replace mulch to maintain a 3-inch layer, rake to redistribute  

**Inspect:** Monthly  
**Maintain:** Annually, spring or fall

**Function – Inlet and Level Spreader**

**Inspect:** ensure runoff flows into the planter box as intended; check levelness of level spreader  
**Maintain:** remove any accumulated sediment and debris; make sure surrounding soils are stabilized using appropriate methods  

**Inspect:** Annually, spring or fall  
**Maintain:** Annually, spring or fall

**Function - Infiltration**

**Inspect:** ensure the water infiltrates in a timely manner and that ponding does not occur for more than 12-24 hours  
**Maintain:** conduct simple infiltration test using a can on soil surface and addition of water to observe drainage; replace modified soil layer when ponding greatly exceeds the design drainage time  

**Inspect:** Annually, spring or fall  
**Maintain:** As needed

**Erosion**

**Inspect:** erosion or gullying issues  
**Maintain:** fix immediately and take measures to re-establish vegetative cover, if applicable add small stones to stabilize drainage paths, regrade and repair bare areas, may need to add additional amended soil and mulch  

**Inspect:** Annually, spring or fall and after major storm events  
**Maintain:** As needed

**Signage, if applicable**

**Inspect:** signage at the site for condition issues  
**Maintain:** clean and replace when needed  

**Inspect:** Annually  
**Maintain:** As needed

**Native Planting Considerations:**

Provide the necessary care to keep native plantings weed free and to maintain aesthetics (applies to short or tall; low or high diversity plantings). Avoid fertilization of native plantings. If native turf is installed, mow as needed or as desired to a minimum height of 4 inches (mowing can be eliminated after establishment, if desired). If allowed by local code, consider annual prescribed fire management for diverse native plantings or for un-mowed native turf to maintain vigor of the plant community and aesthetics.

**Watering guidelines during initial establishment of plants:**

Young plants are susceptible to stress. Depending on the size of the planting, water plants regularly until established. After establishment watering is generally not needed for native plants.