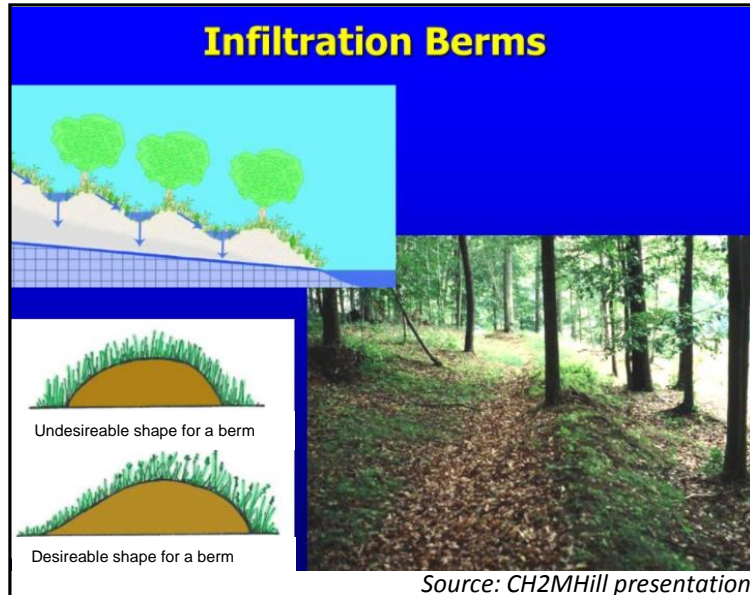




PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

## INFILTRATION BERMS

Infiltration berms are mounds of stone covered with soil and vegetation placed along gentle slopes to slow the flow of water and encourage stormwater infiltration and absorption. In some cases, earth is excavated on the upslope side of the berm to create a pooling area to slow and store water as it filters through the berm. Infiltration berms are appropriate for residential, commercial, or open field/wooded applications, where there is less than a 10% slope in topography. As stormwater flows down the slope, it is slowed and pools as it filters through the berm. The main purpose of a berm is to slow the velocity of the flow and reduce the energy of stormwater flows, thereby reducing erosion and flood risk.



Source: CH2MHill presentation

**Who is responsible for this maintenance?**

As the property owner, you are responsible for all maintenance of your infiltration berm.

## WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR INFILTRATION BERMS

An unmaintained infiltration berm may:

- Stop filtering the rainwater and allow trash and pollutants to enter into nearby streams.
- Block the flow of rainwater and cause local flooding.
- Allow water to pool on the surface long enough to allow mosquitoes to breed (longer than 3 days).

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works

## MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING

FREQUENCY*	ACTIVITY*
As needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove litter and debris.</li> <li>• Mow grass.</li> <li>• Replace thinning or patchy vegetation.</li> </ul>
Semi-annually, or more frequently (as needed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure standing water does not persist longer than 48 hours.</li> <li>• Remove any sediment accumulation.</li> </ul>
Annually, as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair signs of erosion.</li> <li>• Remove invasive/nuisance plant species.</li> <li>• Eliminate any areas where excessive ponding is occurring.</li> </ul>
Every 10 years, or as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the infiltration ability of the berm(s) appear compromised (water pooling longer than 48-72 hours), the rock fill should be removed and replaced.</li> </ul>

\* Follow manufacturer's guidelines

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<https://www.annapolis.gov/450/Stormwater-Management>

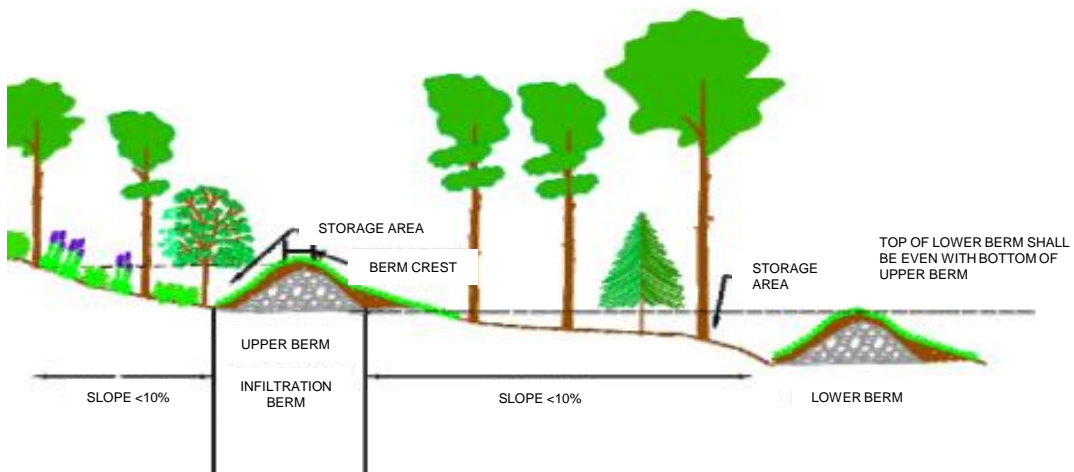
This fact sheet provides SWM practices information and maintenance requirements that are general in nature. Additional maintenance may be required based on the unique nature of your stormwater management practice.

# Troubleshooting Issues

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Poor grass health	Your grass may be the wrong type for your shade and moisture conditions or the grass may be smothered by weeds.	Remove dead or diseased grass and plant new vegetation as needed. Also be sure to regularly remove weeds and other invasive plants.
Standing water for over 48 hours after a rain event	Clogging due to leaf litter, grass clippings, sediment, or debris accumulation.	Remove any visible debris from the surface. Depending on severity, the berm(s) may need to be tilled and replanted.
Erosion or bare soil	The rainwater is moving too fast and/or vegetation is lacking or nonexistent.	Stabilize the eroded areas by planting new vegetation. Consider using rocks to slow the flow of rainwater.

## INVASIVE PLANTS

“Invasive” describes a species that, when introduced into an ecosystem aggressively establishes itself at the expense of native plants or animals (*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*). Regularly inspect vegetation and remove invasive/nuisance plant species. For more information on invasive plants in Maryland, please go to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/invasives/Pages/default.aspx>.



**Infiltration Berms**

Source: Lavelle and Associates