

## Level Spreader-Vegetated Filter Strip / Restored Riparian Buffer Maintenance Requirements

Important maintenance procedures:

- Immediately after the filter strip is established, any newly planted vegetation will be watered twice weekly if needed until the plants become established (commonly six weeks).
- Once a year, the filter strip will be reseeded to maintain a dense growth of vegetation
- Stable groundcover will be maintained in the drainage area to reduce the sediment load to the vegetation.

Two to three times a year, grass filter strips will be mowed and the clippings harvested to promote the growth of thick vegetation with optimum pollutant removal efficiency. Turf grass should not be cut shorter than 3 to 5 inches and may be allowed to grow as tall as 12 inches depending on aesthetic requirements (NIPC, 1993). Forested filter strips do not require this type of maintenance.

- Once a year, the soil will be aerated if necessary.
- Once a year, soil pH will be tested and lime will be added if necessary.

After the filter strip is established, it will be inspected **quarterly and within 24 hours after every storm event greater than 1.0 inch (or 1.5 inches if in a Coastal County)**. Records of operation and maintenance will be kept in a known set location and will be available upon request.

Inspection activities shall be performed as follows. Any problems that are found shall be repaired immediately.

BMP element:	Potential problem:	How to remediate the problem:
<b>The entire BMP</b>	Trash/debris is present.	Remove the trash/debris.
<b>The perimeter of the BMP</b>	Areas of bare soil and/or erosive gullies have formed.	Regrade the soil if necessary to remove the gully, and then plant a ground cover and water until it is established. Provide lime and a one-time fertilizer application.
	Vegetation is too short or too long.	Maintain vegetation at a height of approximately six inches.
<b>The flow splitter device (if applicable)</b>	The flow splitter device is clogged.	Unclog the conveyance and dispose of any sediment off-site.
	The flow splitter device is damaged.	Make any necessary repairs or replace if damage is too large for repair.
<b>The inlet device</b>	The pipe is clogged.	Unclog the pipe. Dispose of the sediment off-site.
	The pipe is cracked or otherwise damaged.	Replace the pipe.
	Erosion is occurring in the swale.	Regrade the swale if necessary to smooth it over and provide erosion control devices such as reinforced turf matting or riprap to avoid future problems with erosion.
	Stone verge is clogged or covered in sediment (if applicable).	Remove sediment and replace with clean stone.

**LS-VFS / Restored Riparian Buffer Maintenance Requirements (Continued)**

<b>The swale and the level lip</b>	The swale is clogged with sediment.	Remove the sediment and dispose of it off-site.
	The level lip is cracked, settled, undercut, eroded or otherwise damaged.	Repair or replace lip.
	There is erosion around the end of the level spreader that shows stormwater has bypassed it.	Regrade the soil to create a berm that is higher than the level lip, and then plant a ground cover and water until it is established. Provide lime and a one-time fertilizer application.
	Trees or shrubs have begun to grow on the swale or just downslope of the level lip.	Remove them.
<b>The bypass channel</b>	Areas of bare soil and/or erosive gullies have formed.	Regrade the soil if necessary to remove the gully, and then reestablish proper erosion control.
	Turf reinforcement is damaged or ripap is rolling downhill.	Study the site to see if a larger bypass channel is needed (enlarge if necessary). After this, reestablish the erosion control material.
<b>The filter strip</b>	Grass is too short or too long (if applicable).	Maintain grass at a height of approximately three to six inches.
	Areas of bare soil and/or erosive gullies have formed.	Regrade the soil if necessary to remove the gully, and then plant a ground cover and water until it is established. Provide lime and a one-time fertilizer application.
	Sediment is building up on the filter strip.	Remove the sediment and restabilize the soil with vegetation if necessary. Provide lime and a one-time fertilizer application.
	Plants are desiccated.	Provide additional irrigation and fertilizer as needed.
	Plants are dead, diseased or dying.	Determine the source of the problem: soils, hydrology, disease, etc. Remedy the problem and replace plants. Provide a one-time fertilizer application.
	Nuisance vegetation is choking out desirable species.	Remove vegetation by hand if possible. If pesticide is used, do not allow it to get into the receiving water.
<b>The receiving water</b>	Erosion or other signs of damage have occurred at the outlet.	Contact the NCDENR local Regional Office, or the 401 Oversight Unit at 919-733-1786.