

Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) are devices that are designed and constructed for a developed property to manage its stormwater runoff. They are a necessary part of any developed property because they can prevent the flooding, erosion, and pollution that can occur both on and off the property. Thus, SCMs are critically important to the health, safety, and welfare of a community and to the economic vitality of local businesses and industries.

There are many types of SCMs. Nearly all of them are designed to temporarily store (detain) stormwater before it is released off the property. Most SCM are also designed to filter or settle pollutants out of the water before cleaner water is released from the SCM and into local streams.

Like any piece of infrastructure, SCMs must be maintained to operate properly whenever it rains. When they are not maintained, they do not prevent stormwater problems. In fact, neglected SCMs can make flooding, erosion, and pollution worse. There can be enormous costs incurred for the repair of properties, roadways, or waterways that are damaged or polluted because SCMs have not been maintained. However, when SCMs are properly maintained, their maintenance costs are relatively low. Often, well-maintained SCMs can function for many years needing only minor repairs.

Federal, State, and local governments in the United States are beginning to recognize the importance of SCM maintenance to public welfare. In Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) requires many cities and counties, including the City of Alcoa, to ensure SCMs designed to address stormwater pollution are maintained. Their intent is to safeguard local streams and regional waterways from the impacts of stormwater pollution.

The City of Alcoa ensures SCMs are maintained through requirements and enforcement provisions in local government ordinances (laws). These laws require property owners to protect, inspect, and maintain SCMs located on their property, so they are fully functional in keeping with their design. **So, if you own property in The City of Alcoa that has one or more SCMs, you are responsible for maintaining them in a fully functional condition.** SCM maintenance activities can be carried out by others, such as tenants, property managers, or lawn/landscape contractors. **But it is important to understand that the property owner is ultimately responsible for ensuring maintenance occurs.**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has information on the types of SCMs commonly found in The City of Alcoa. Visit the website below to learn more:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/national-menu-best-management-practices-bmps-stormwater-post-construction>

Owner Responsibilities

Inspect the SCM frequently to identify any maintenance needs.

Maintain the SCM so it remains fully functional.

Protect the SCM to prevent damage.

Contact the City of Alcoa Stormwater Management Department if you have any questions.