



Public Works Department
Client Assistance Memo

Private Stormwater Systems Maintenance

If you own property in the City of Gig Harbor, you may have stormwater management facilities located on your property. The purpose of these facilities is to slow, filter, detain, or infiltrate stormwater runoff after a rainfall event. These can be built structures or integrated into the landscape (such as rain gardens). If these facilities don't function properly, it can have harmful effects on our community including flooding, erosion, and pollution.

All property owners in Gig Harbor who have stormwater management facilities are responsible for ensuring those facilities are working as intended (Gig Harbor Municipal Code 14.20.150).

For stormwater facilities engineered for flow control or treatment, there is an additional certification requirement. These types of facilities include, but are not limited to, ponds, filter systems, underground detention vaults, and permeable pavement. Gig Harbor has a three-step program for verifying that this requirement is being met:



These steps must be done annually.

Inspect: There are two options for inspecting your facilities:

- a. Schedule an inspection with city staff (**currently at no cost**) by contacting the stormwater program (Phone: 253-853-2646; Email: stormwater@gigharborwa.gov) OR
- b. Hire a third-party contractor qualified to perform stormwater facility inspections.

Maintain: Whichever inspection option you choose, the result should be a list of maintenance activities (if any) that need to be performed to ensure the facility is up to standard. It will then be the responsibility of the property owner to make the corrective actions. **The city does not perform maintenance on private stormwater systems.** Keep all records associated with maintenance activities including receipts, invoices, photos, log sheets, etc.

Certify: Once the inspection and maintenance activities are complete, the property owner or a representative (contractor, inspector, etc.) must submit a certification form which can be found on Gig Harbor's stormwater webpage: GigHarborWA.gov/Stormwater. The form will ask for basic contact information and a summary of activities and allows you to upload pictures and other records. A signature will be required attesting that the maintenance was performed.