FocalPoint

BIOFILTRATION SYSTEMS

Operations & Maintenance

CONVERGENT WATER TECHNOLOGIES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The following general specifications describe the general operations and maintenance requirements for the FocalPoint® High Performance Modular Biofiltration System (HPMBS). The system utilizes physical, chemical and biological mechanisms of a soil, plant and microbe complex to remove pollutants typically found in urban stormwater runoff. The treatment system is a fully equipped, modular, constructed in place system designed to treat contaminated runoff.

Stormwater enters the HPMBS, is filtered by the High Performance Biofiltration Media and passes through to the underdrain/storage system where the treated water is detained, retained or infiltrated to sub-soils, prior to discharge to the storm sewer system of any remaining flow.

Higher flows bypass the FocalPoint® via a downstream inlet or other overflow conveyance. Maintenance is a simple, inexpensive and safe operation that does not require confined space entry, pumping or vacuum equipment, or specialized tools. Properly trained landscape personnel can effectively maintain FocalPoint® Stormwater systems by following instructions in this manual.

BASIC OPERATIONS

FocalPoint® is a modular, high performance biofiltration system that often works in tandem with other integrated management practices (IMP). Contaminated stormwater runoff enters the biofiltration bed through a conveyance swale, planter box, or directly through a curb cut or false inlet. Energy is dissipated by a rock or vegetative dissipation device and is absorbed by a 3-inch layer of aged, double shreddded hardwood mulch, with fines removed, (when specified) on the surface of the biofiltration media.

As the water passes through the mulch layer, most of the larger sediment particles and heavy metals are removed through sedimentation and chemical reactions with the organic material in the mulch. Water passes through the biofiltration media where the finer particles are removed and numerous chemical reactions take place to immobilize and capture pollutants in the soil media.

The cleansed water passes into the underdrain/storage system and remaining flows are directed to a storm sewer system or other appropriate discharge point. Once the pollutants are in the soil, bacteria begin to break down and metabolize the materials and the plants begin to uptake and metabolize the pollutants. Some pollutants such as heavy metals, which are chemically bound to organic particles in the mulch, are released over time as the organic matter decomposes to release the metals to the feeder roots of the plants and the cells of the bacteria in the soil where they remain and are recycled. Other pollutants such as phosphorus are chemically bound to the soil particles and released slowly back to the plants and bacteria and used in their metabolic processes. Nitrogen goes through a variety of very complex biochemical processes where it can ultimately end up in the plant/bacteria biomass, turned to nitrogen gas or dissolves back into the water column as nitrates depending on soil temperature, pH and the availability of oxygen. The pollutants ultimately are retained in the mulch, soil and biomass with some passing out of the system into the air or back into the water.

DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

Each project presents different scopes for the use of FocalPoint® system. To ensure the safe and specified function of this stormwater BMP, Convergent Water Technologies and/or its Value Added Resellers (VAR) review each application before supply. Information and design assistance is available to the design engineer during the planning process. Correct FocalPoint® sizing is essential to optimum performance. The engineer shall submit calculations for approval by the local jurisdiction when required. The contractor and/or VAR is responsible for the correct installation of FocalPoint units as described in approved plans. A comprehensive installation manual is available at www.convergentwater.com.

MAINTENANCE

Why Maintain?

All stormwater treatment systems require maintenance for effective operation. This necessity is often incorporated in your property's permitting process as a legally binding BMP maintenance agreement. Other reasons for maintenance include:

- Avoid legal challenges from your jurisdiction's maintenance enforcement program.
- Prolong the lifespan of your FocalPoint HPMBS.
- Avoid costly repairs.
- Help reduce pollutant loads leaving your property.

Simple maintenance of the FocalPoint® is required to continue effective pollutant removal from stormwater runoff before any discharge into downstream waters. This procedure will also extend the longevity of the living biofiltration system. The unit will recycle and accumulate pollutants within the biomass, but may also subjected to other materials entering the surface of the system. This may include trash, silt and leaves etc. which will be contained above the mulch and/or biofiltration media layer. Too much silt may inhibit the FocalPoint's® flow rate, which is a primary reason for system maintenance. Removal of accumulated silt/sediment and/or replacement of the mulch layer (when specified), is an important activity that prevents overaccumulation of such silt/sediment.

When to Maintain?

Convergent Water Technologies and/or its VAR includes a 1-year maintenance plan with each system purchased. Annual included maintenance consists of two (2) scheduled maintenance visits. Additional maintenance may be necessary depending on sediment and trash loading (by Owner or at additional cost). The start of the maintenance plan begins when the system is activated for full operation. Full operation is defined as when the site is appropriately stabilized, the unit is installed and activated (by VAR), i.e., when mulch (if specified) and plantings are added.

Activation should be avoided until the site is fully stabilized (full landscaping, grass cover, final paving and street sweeping completed). Maintenance visits are scheduled seasonally; the spring visit aims to clean up after winter loads including salts and sands. The fall visit helps the system by removing excessive leaf litter.

A first inspection to determine if maintenance is necessary should be performed at least twice annually after storm events of greater than (1) one inch total depth (subject to regional climate). Please refer to the maintenance checklist for specific conditions that indicate if maintenance is necessary.

It has been found that in regions which receive between 30-50 inches of annual rainfall, (2) two visits are generally required. Regions with less rainfall often only require (1) one visit per annum. Varying land uses can affect maintenance frequency.

Some sites may be subjected to extreme sediment or trash loads, requiring more frequent maintenance visits. This is the reason for detailed notes of maintenance actions per unit, helping the VAR/Maintenance contractor and Owner predict future maintenance frequencies, reflecting individual site conditions.

Owners must promptly notify the VAR/Maintenance contractor of any damage to the plant(s), which constitute(s) an integral part of the biofiltration technology. Owners should also advise other landscape or maintenance contractors to leave all maintenance of the HPMBS to the VAR/Maintenance contractor (i.e. no pruning or fertilizing).

EXCLUSION OF SERVICES

It is the responsibility of the owner to provide adequate irrigation when necessary to the plant(s) in the FocalPoint® system.

Clean up due to major contamination such as oils, chemicals, toxic spills, etc. will result in additional costs and are not covered under the VAR/Maintenance contractor maintenance contract. Should a major contamination event occur, the Owner must block off the outlet pipe of the FocalPoint® (where the cleaned runoff drains to, such as drop-inlet) and block off the point where water enters of the FocalPoint®. The VAR/Maintenance contractor should be informed immediately.

MAINTENANCE VISIT SUMMARY

Each maintenance visit consists of the following simple tasks (detailed instructions below).

1. Inspection of FocalPoint® and surrounding area
2. Removal of debris, trash and mulch
3. Mulch replacement
4. Plant health evaluation (including measurements) and pruning or replacement as necessary
5. Clean area around FocalPoint®
6. Complete paperwork, including date stamped photos of the tasks listed above.

MAINTENANCE TOOLS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Ideal tools include: camera, bucket, shovel, broom, pruners, hoe/rake, and tape measure. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be used in accordance with local or company procedures. This may include impervious gloves where the type of trash is unknown, high visibility clothing and barricades when working in close proximity to traffic and also safety hats and shoes.

MAINTENANCE VISIT PROCEDURE

Inspection of FocalPoint® and surrounding area

Record individual unit before maintenance with photograph (numbered). Record on Maintenance Report (see example in this document) the following:

- Standing Water yes | no
- Is Bypass Inlet Clear? yes | no
- Damage to HPMBS System yes | no
- to Overflow conveyance yes | no

Removal of Silt / Sediment / Clay

Dig out silt (if any) and mulch and remove trash & foreign items.

- Silt / Clay Found? yes | no
- Cups / Bags Found? yes | no
- Leaves? yes | no
- Volume of material removed _____ (volume or weight)

Removal of debris, trash and mulch

After removal of mulch and debris, measure distance from the top of the FocalPoint® engineered media soil to the flow line elevation of the adjacent overflow conveyance. If this distance is greater than that specified on the plans (typ. 6" - 12"), add FocalPoint® media (not top soil or other) to recharge to the distance specified.

- Distance to media surface to flow line of overflow conveyance (inches) _____
- # of Buckets of Media Added _____

Mulch Replacement

Most maintenance visits require only replacement mulch (if utilized). Bags of clean, double shredded hardwood mulch are typically used for smaller biofiltration beds, however larger systems may require truck loads of mulch. For smaller projects, one cubic foot of mulch will cover four square feet of biofiltration bed, and for larger projects, one cubic yard of mulch will cover 108 square feet of biofiltration bed. Some visits may require additional FocalPoint® engineered soil media available from the VAR/Contractor.

- Add double shredded, aged hardwood mulch which has been screened to remove fines, evenly across the entire biofiltration media bed to a depth of 3".
- Clean accumulated sediment from energy dissipation system at the inlet to the FocalPoint® system to allow for entry of trash during a storm event.

Plant health evaluation and pruning or replacement as necessary

Examine the plant's health and replace if dead or dying.
Prune as necessary to encourage growth in the correct directions

- Height above Grade (feet) _____
- Width at Widest point (feet) _____
- Health alive | dead
- Damage to Plant yes | no

Clean area around FocalPoint®

- Clean area around unit and remove all refuse to be disposed of appropriately.

Complete paperwork

- Deliver Maintenance Report and photographs as appropriate.
- Some jurisdictions may require submission of maintenance reports in accordance with approvals.
- It is the responsibility of the Owner to comply with local regulations.

FocalPoint

BIOFILTRATION SYSTEM

FocalPoint Warranty

Seller warrants goods sold hereunder against defects in materials and workmanship only, for a period of (1) year from date the Seller activates the system into service. Seller makes no other warranties, express or implied.

Seller's liability hereunder shall be conditioned upon the Buyer's installation, maintenance, and service of the goods in strict compliance with the written instructions and specifications provided by the Seller. Any deviation from Seller's instructions and specifications or any abuse or neglect shall void warranties.

In the event of any claim upon Seller's warranty, the burden shall be upon the Buyer to prove strict compliance with all instructions and specifications provided by the Seller.

Seller's liability hereunder shall be limited only to the cost or replacement of the goods. Buyer agrees that Seller shall not be liable for any consequential losses arising from the purchase, installation, and/or use of the goods.

CONVERGENT WATER TECHNOLOGIES

Maintenance Checklist

Element	Problem	What To Check	Should Exist	Action
Inlet	Excessiver sediment or trash accumulation	Accumulation of sediment or trash impair free flow of water into FocalPoint	Inlet free of obstructions allowing free flow into FocalPoint System	Sediments or trash should be removed
Mulch Cover	Trash and floatable debris accumulation	Excessive trash or debris accumulation.	Minimal trash or other debris on mulch cover	Trash and debris should be removed and mulch cover raked level. Ensure that bark nugget
Mulch Cover	Ponding of water on mulch cover	Ponding in unit could be indicative of clogging due to excessive fine sediment accumulation or spill of petroleum oils	Stormwater should drain freely and evenly over mulch cover.	Contact VAR for advice.
Plants	Plants not growing, or in poor condition	Soil/mulch too wet, evidence of spill. Pest infestation. Vandalism to plants.	Plants should be healthy and pest free.	Contact VAR for advice.
Plants	Plant growth excessive	Plants should be appropriate to the species and location of FocalPoint		Trim/prune plants in accordance with typical landscaping and