

Operations and Maintenance Plan **For Parks and Trails**

Updated March 2018

General

As part of the MS4 Stormwater Program, the City is required to develop and implement an operations and maintenance program to prevent or reduce pollutant runoff from parks and trails.

Training

Employees responsible for operations and maintenance of municipal facilities shall be provided sufficient training to identify and prevent or reduce stormwater pollution. New employees should be trained within 6 months of their hire date. Existing employees should have training or re-training at least once every 5 years.

Potential Pollutants

Potential pollutants on parks are, but not limited to, the following:

- Debris and trash
- Sediment
- Nutrients from fertilizer
- Pesticides or herbicides

Parking Lots and Trails

Any parking lots and trails associated with public parks should follow the “Operations and Maintenance Plan for Public Parking Lots”.

Park Operations

Equipment Fueling

The fueling of lawn equipment should occur away from a stream or storm drain system in case of a spill. The vehicles transporting the equipment should have spill kits with absorbent material. If a spill occurs, it shall be contained immediately with the spill kit and the collected material disposed of properly.

Trash and Debris Pickup

During routine and grass cutting operations, trash and debris should be collected. All collected trash and debris shall be disposed of properly.

Fertilizer and Pesticide Use

The use of fertilizers and pesticides shall be in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. The mixing and/or loading of equipment should occur away from a stream or storm drain system in case of a spill. Any spills shall be cleaned up immediately. Do not apply at a rate greater than specified by the manufacturer or apply before a rain event of significant magnitude that the stormwater would wash the material off the site. Do not spray when it is windy. Containers for fertilizers, pesticides, and other related items shall not be left outside where they would be exposed to stormwater.

Lawn Cutting

The height of the grass after cutting should be based on the specific grass species. Cutting it too low of a height can damage the grass causing it to die which then can lead to soil erosion. The use of weed eaters to cut grass is discouraged due to scalping of the grass which can lead to soil erosion. The use of weed eaters on a slope too steep for a mower is acceptable if the grass is cut higher than a mower would so that scalping does not occur. If a stream is located on the site, the preference is for the area along the stream to not be mowed. However, if it needs to be mowed, it should be mowed to a height several inches higher than that of the regular lawn height.

Erosion

The site should be inspected on at least a quarterly basis for bare soil and erosion. The inspection can occur in conjunction with other routine operations and does not need to be a separate inspection. If bare soils or erosion are present, schedule needed repairs to occur in a timely manner.

Maintenance

The materials used for cleaning, painting, and other maintenance shall be used and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Containers for cleaning solvents, paint, and other related items shall not be left outside where they would be exposed to stormwater.