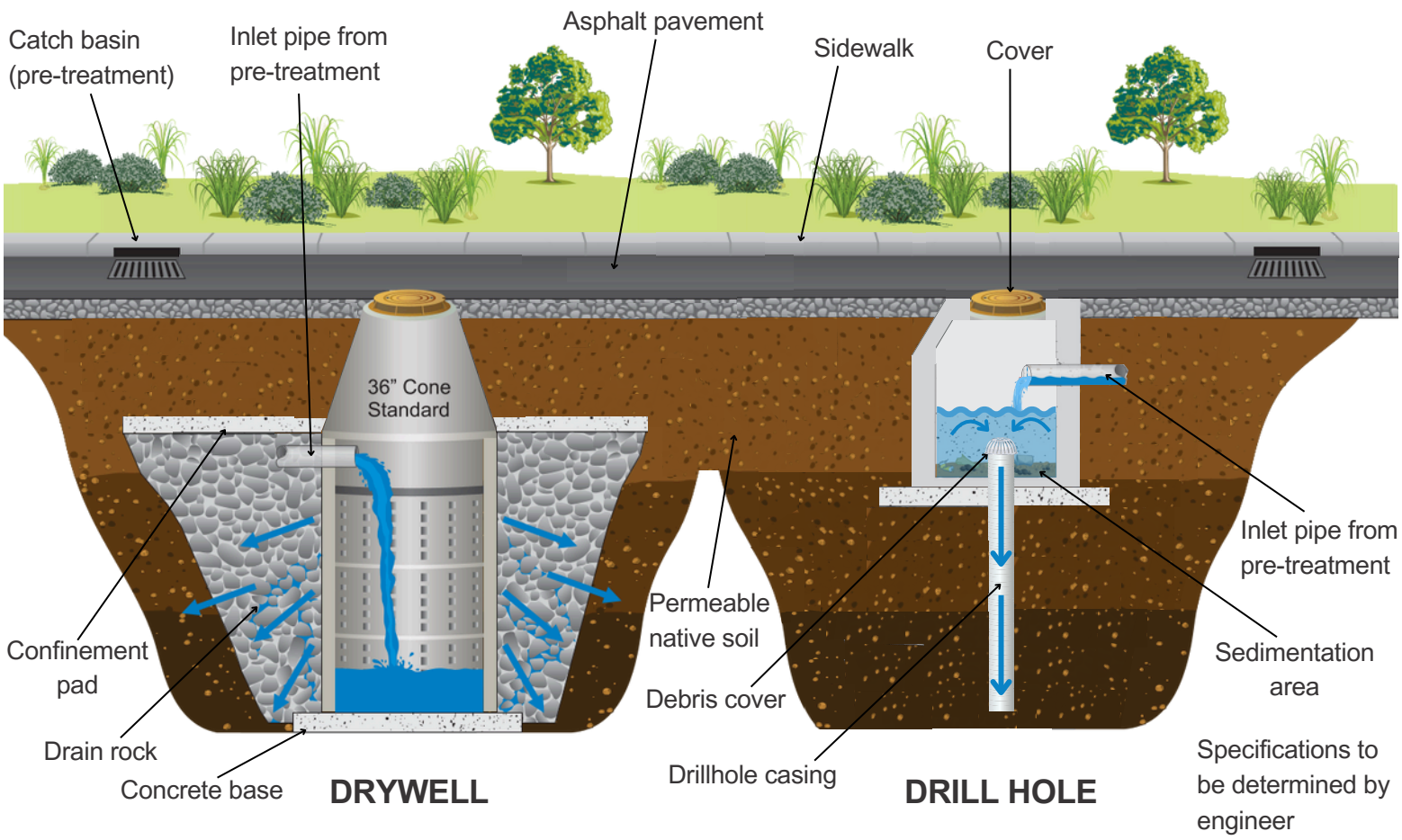
CITY OF BEND
WATER SERVICES

DRYWELL/DRILL HOLE
Maintenance Guideline



What does your Drywell/Drill Hole do? Why is it important?

Drywells/drill holes are solely designed to infiltrate water into the ground. The drywell(s)/drill hole(s) on your property makes a significant positive impact by mimicking natural conditions, reducing pollutants to the Deschutes River, and recharging our underground drinking water supplies.

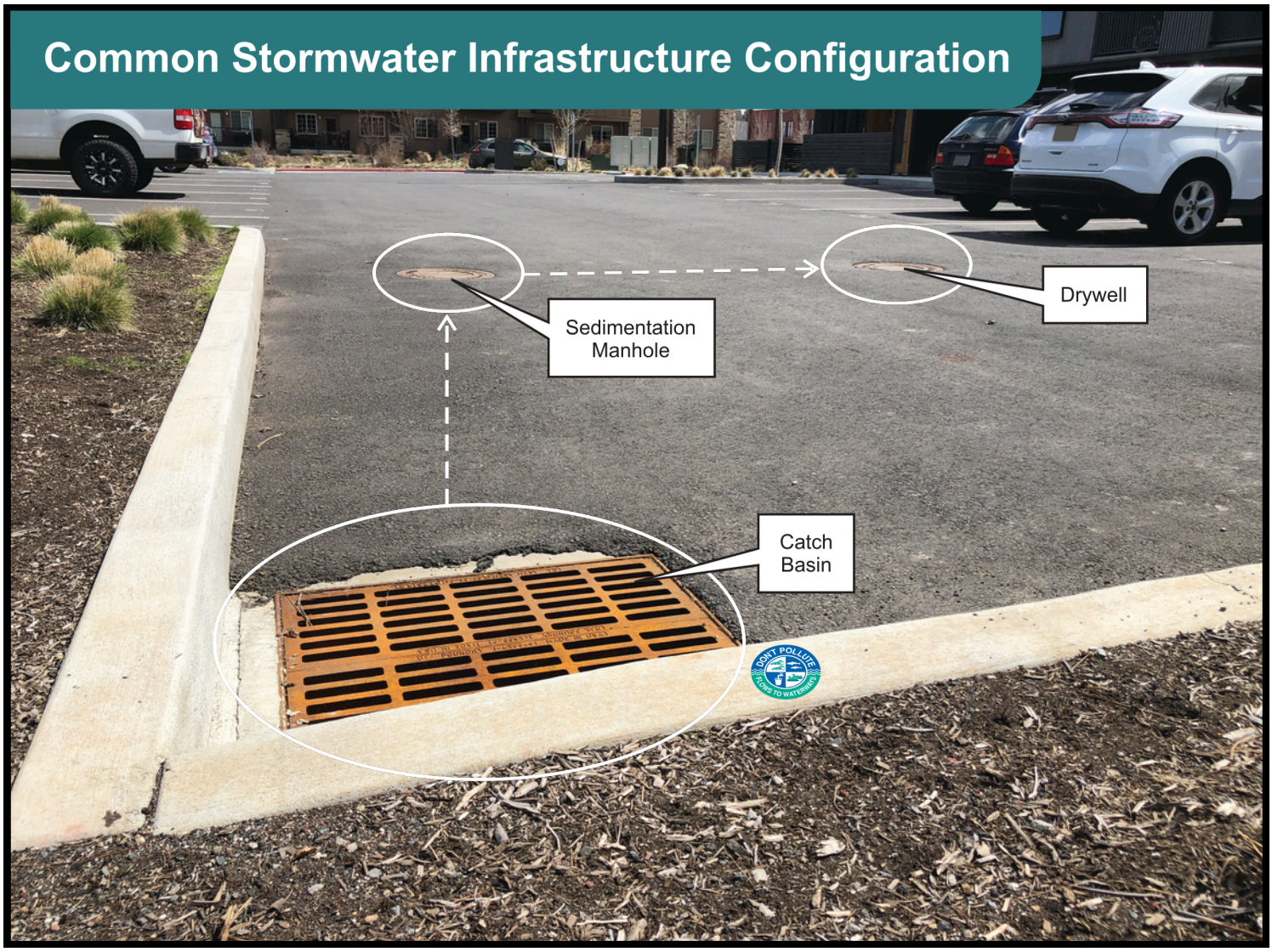
Why is it important to maintain your Drywell(s)/Drill Hole(s)?

Without proper maintenance, drywells/drillholes can fail, leading to drainage and flooding issues. Ensuring that sediments and other pollutants stay out of drywells/drillholes is important to prevent clogging or injecting pollutants underground. In Bend, our stormwater facilities serve an important function and property owners are required to keep and maintain them per Bend Code Title 16. Just remember, a few things will go a long way in the effort to keep our waters clean and to prevent localized flooding. Spill containment is a priority to reduce the potential of spills near drywells/drill holes due to the threat to groundwater quality, and there should be a spill kit onsite.

What tools do you need?

Maintenance schedules for drywells/drill holes vary depending on flow volumes and sediment loading. Routine maintenance requires the use of a vacuum designed to suck up the water and sediment. In most places, there are local contractors that provide this service for a fee. Regularly inspecting your facility to monitor sediment and floatable levels is critical. Carrying the attached checklist, pen, a copy of your site plan, lid puller, steel toe boots, flashlight and a rigid sediment measuring device is a good way to ensure a safe and complete inspection can be performed. When inspecting drywells, ensure safety by using proper equipment and checking for structural integrity, as depths often exceed 5ft.

Common Stormwater Infrastructure Configuration



Bad Example

Perpetual stagnant water indicates that drywell has failed and needs to be thoroughly clean or replaced.

Good Example

Bottom of drywell has little to no water.

Drywell skirt fabric is in good condition; ideally should be secured at each section break and at bottom for ease of cleaning.

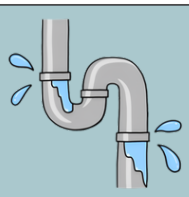
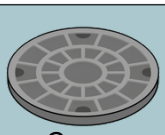
Drywell/Drill Hole Inspection and Maintenance Checklist

Property Address _____ Property Owner/Responsible Party _____

Facility Name/ID _____ Date of Inspection _____

Type of Inspection: ☐ Pre-rainy Season ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annual ☐ Re-inspection

Inspector(s) _____ Email _____ Phone Number _____

Defect	Conditions when maintenance is needed	Maintenance needed? Yes/No	Comments[1]	Results expected when maintenance is performed
 Debris & sediment	Accumulated debris or sediment depth exceeds 12 inches or impedes flow from inlet or outlet pipes.			All sediment and debris removed from storage area. Runoff freely flows into and out of basin.
 Damaged pipes	Inlet or outlet piping damaged or broken and in need of repair.			Pipe repaired and/or replaced.
 Vegetation	Root systems entering drywell/drillhole.			Remove large root systems and remove (if needed) nearby vegetation to prevent root systems from damaging structural components or blocking outflow.
 Structure	Cracks wider than 1/2-inch and any evidence of soil particles entering the structure through the cracks, or maintenance/inspection personnel determines that the vault is not structurally sound.			Vault replaced or repaired to design specifications and is structurally sound. No cracks more than 1/2-inch wide at the joint of the inlet/outlet pipe.
 Contaminants and pollution	Any evidence of oil, gasoline, contaminants, or pollutants.			Oil and contaminants removed and properly disposed. No contaminants or pollutants present.
 Cover	Cover is missing, cracked, broken, or only partially in place. Cover is difficult to remove with normal lifting pressure.			Repair or replace cover. Manhole is closed and can be removed and reinstalled by one person to facilitate maintenance access.
 Drainage	Facility does not drain within 72 hours.			Evaluate infiltration capacity and surrounding soil/rock layers. May require decommissioning and replacement of drywell/drill hole.
 Mosquito vector breeding	Suitable habitats exist for mosquito production (e.g., standing water in areas accessible to mosquitoes).			Standing water no longer exists or is inaccessible to mosquitoes.

[1]Describe maintenance completed; and if any needed maintenance was not conducted, note what is needed and when it will be done

Source: Central Oregon Stormwater Manual

Additional Resources

City of Bend
Stormwater Home Page

City of Bend
Standards and Specifications

CITY OF BEND
WATER SERVICES

62975 Boyd Acres Road
Bend, Oregon 97701

541-317-3000 Ext. 2
FAX: 541-317-3046

Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities
To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact the City of Bend Stormwater Program at stormwater@bendoregon.gov or 541-317-3000 ext. 2.