

Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Fact Sheet

► **PLANTER BOXES**

Planter boxes capture runoff from downspouts or sheet flow from plazas and paved areas. The runoff briefly floods the surface of the box and then percolates through an active soil layer to drain rock below. Typical maintenance consists of the following:

- Examine **downspouts** from rooftops or sheet flow from paving to ensure that flow to the planter is unimpeded. Remove any debris and repair any damaged pipes. Check splash blocks or rocks and repair, replace, or replenish as necessary.
- Examine the **overflow** pipe to make sure that it can safely convey excess flows to a storm drain. Repair or replace any damaged or disconnected piping.
- Check the **underdrain** piping to make sure it is intact and unobstructed.
- Observe the **structure** of the box and fix any holes, cracks, rotting, or failure.
- Check that the **soil** is at the appropriate depth to allow a reservoir above the soil surface and is sufficient to effectively filter stormwater. Remove any accumulations of sediment, litter, and debris. Till or replace soil as necessary. Confirm that soil is not clogging and that the planter will drain within 3-4 hours after a storm event.
- Determine whether the **vegetation** is dense and healthy. Replace dead plants. Prune or remove any overgrown plants or shrubs that may interfere with planter operation. Clean up fallen leaves or debris and replenish mulch. Remove any nuisance or invasive vegetation.