**SLATER PARK VEGETATED WATERFOWL BUFFER MAINTENANCE & INSPECTION GUIDANCE**

**EXAMPLE**

**SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- |
| **Maintenance & Inspection Activities** |  **Recommended Frequency\*** |
| *Monthly* | *Annually* | *After Large Storms* |
| During the 3-year establishment period water buffer areas to 1 inch water per month including rain, and water new trees until soil around roots is moist | X |  |  |
| Remove trash and organic debris from within and around gardens | X |  | X |
| Remove any weedy or invasive plants | X |  |  |
| Remove sediment build-up\*\* | X |  | X |
| Check for and repair soil erosion gullies within the gardens | X |  | X |
| Check for standing water in planting beds B, C and D 48 hours after a storm event | X |  | X |
| Spring and fall clean-up |  | X |  |
| Mow planting area D, Little Bluestem, to 1/3 height in April or November |  | X |  |
| Reapply straw mulch at 2 inches in loose thickness |  | X |  |
| Revegetate only large bare patches with approved plugs or seeds, during growing season, spaced per planting plan specs |  | X | X |
| Repair erosion on all contributing areas within park |  | X | X |
| Check for and fill animal burrows in or around rain gardens |  | X |  |
| Check signage and report if missing or faded; clean if tagged |  | X |  |

The buffer is designed to discourage waterfowl access to the shore, to create habitat for beneficial native species, and to intercept and soak up runoff flowing from higher elevations to Slater Pond. Regular inspection and maintenance are critical to ensure that the buffer functions as designed and should be performed per the schedule below as part of routine park maintenance operations:

*\* All inspections/activities are intended to be performed during the growing season, and on an as-needed basis*

*\*\* Sediment shall be disposed of offsite in a pre-approved location*

1. **TROUBLESHOOTING**

Some maintenance and inspection considerations are beyond the basics and may require some troubleshooting.

* If plant die-off is occurring try to determine the cause. For assistance with diagnosing the reason for poor plant health, contact URI Master Gardeners March – October, Monday –Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at **(401) 874-4836** or by email at **gardener@uri.edu**.
* Be aware of fallen or leaning trees. Damaged trees may require pruning or removal.
* Over time, sediment entering the system may cause a small berm to form between contributing upland area and buffer areas. The berm will prevent runoff from entering buffers, likely causing it to flow parallel to buffers instead. Repair by removing accumulated sediments and regrading and reseeding the area. Be sure to dispose of sediment properly.
* For assistance identifying weeds and invasive species refer to the URI weed identification guide year-round at <https://web.uri.edu/riss/in-the-weeds/>

Prepared by City of Pawtucket, designer Kyle Alfred of Fuss & O’Neill, and, with funding from Rhode Island Department of Transportation, URI Cooperative Extension. These editable templates are intended for use by municipalities, designers, and others to customize for their own projects.

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