

## TAKE AWAY MESSAGE

Presentation Title: Level 1: Visual Inspection

Speaker: Andy Erickson, Research Fellow, St. Anthony Falls Lab

Visual Inspection is the first of four levels of assessment and is a rapid assessment procedure for qualitatively evaluating the functionality of a stormwater BMP. Visual inspections use a set of criteria that, under certain circumstances, determine if the stormwater BMP is malfunctioning, requires maintenance, or both. More information on visual inspection, visual inspection checklists, and all four levels of assessment can be found in the online manual, "Assessment of Stormwater BMPs" located at:

<http://wrc.umn.edu/outreach/stormwater/bmpassessment/assessmentmanual/index.html>.

Stormwater ponds require maintenance to remain effective. Visual inspection is used to schedule non-routine maintenance such as inlet/outlet repair and sediment dredging, among others. The primary function of stormwater ponds is sediment collection (via settling) and flood control (via hydraulic retention). Sediment accumulation within stormwater ponds can significantly reduce the sediment and hydraulic retention capacity resulting in reduced water quality treatment and flood prevention. Clogged inlets or outlets can also cause flooding in and around stormwater ponds. Visual inspection is used to determine when evidence of malfunction is present and maintenance is required.