



Stormwater Facilities & Maintenance

Level Spreaders

Level Spreaders and diffusers are designed to convert concentrated runoff to sheet flow and release it onto areas stabilized by existing vegetation. This promotes infiltration and improves water quality by evenly spreading the erosive flow of stormwater. There are many types of level spreaders and diffusion devices, with some of the more common being energy dissipating devices (e.g. riprap, rock, splash pads, and dispersal trenches).

Pro Tip:

Look for areas downstream of the diffusion devices for any channeling which is a sign of stormwater spreading unevenly causing erosion: this requires maintenance.



Dispersion devices can be made of small rocks or concrete and are often fed by stormwater pipes



This level spreader is clean and clear – in great condition



This level spreader is clogged with garbage and weeds

Maintenance required when:

- Sediment building up inside level spreader
- Sediment, debris, or vegetation around level spreader
- Trash in or around area
- Oil found on water surface
- Damaged structure
- Evidence of flows concentrating downstream

Contact your HOA or property manager immediately if:

- Sheen or oil found in water leaving structure
- Structure is hidden by overgrown vegetation
- Major erosion observed at/near site

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ThurstonStormwater.org

Don't let your systems fail.



Keep level spreaders clear of sediment, debris, grass, and cattails

Often diffusion or dispersion devices are located at the end of a stormwater pipe system. Keep an eye on any areas downstream to ensure the flow is not concentrating and causing channeling – a sign of system failure and maintenance needs.



Dispersion trenches are common in Thurston County and are often located in drainage easements

Keep water clean. Protect county roads from flooding. Save money.

Many diffusion devices also have a catch basin nearby. It is important that the catch basin is also inspected concurrently when level spreader maintenance work is performed. If either of the two become clogged it can cause localized flooding and other potentially costly damages.



A nicely maintained concrete level spreader - post maintenance

For additional information regarding stormwater management in Thurston County, reference our Stormwater Drainage Manual at DM.ThurstonStormwater.org.