



county of san diego



Flow spreader



Downspout and splash block

# dispersion areas

**Dispersion Areas** are a type of Significant Site Design Best Management Practice (SSD-BMP) used for managing stormwater runoff. Dispersion Areas are installed on certain properties across the County to help **reduce stormwater volume and prevent pollutants** such as trash, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment from making their way into storm drains and ultimately to our local creeks, rivers, and ocean. Your property is one of several across the County that has at least one Dispersion Area.

## *Dispersion Areas Keep Our Waterways Clean*

The Dispersion Areas on your property are designed to slow and reduce the volume of stormwater runoff entering the storm drain system. Dispersion Areas also help remove pollutants generated on your property before water reaches the storm drain system. As an owner of one of these properties with a Dispersion Area, the County requests your participation by **performing routine inspections and maintenance actions** to ensure that your Dispersion Areas are operating effectively.

**Our records indicate that you have at least one Dispersion Area on your property.** To help you maintain this Dispersion Area, the **County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program** is providing you with this informational flyer to answer questions you may have about Dispersion Areas and how to maintain them.

## *How Your Dispersion Areas Work*

Dispersion Areas are vegetated areas designated to receive stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as rooftops, walkways, and driveways. Stormwater runoff is directed from these surfaces by a downspout with a splash block, or a flow spreader (see figure 1 on back), which distributes the stormwater runoff into a Dispersion Area. In the Dispersion Area, the runoff flows through the vegetation and soil which is known as infiltration. During infiltration, the runoff is





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filtered preventing pollutants from entering the storm drain. Infiltration also reduces the volume of runoff entering the storm drain system preventing surface flooding.

### *Find And Maintain Your Dispersion Areas*

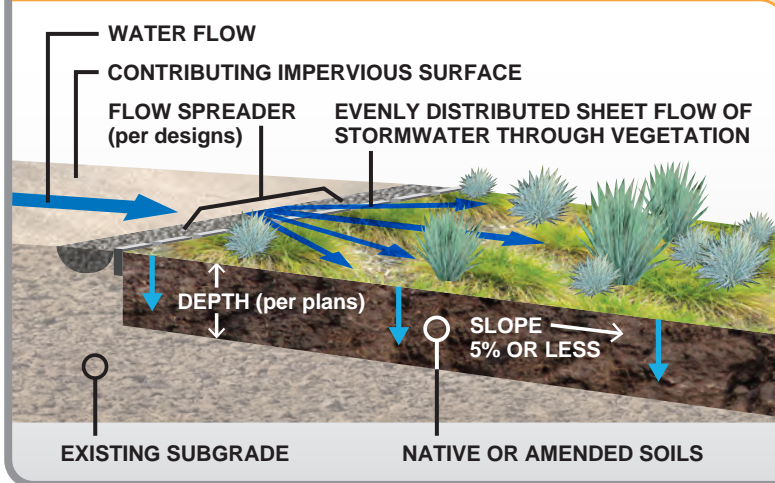


To find your Dispersion Area, look for a vegetated area (e.g. grass or plants) that is generally flat that may have a slight slope.

The Dispersion Area may be located adjacent to a paved driveway, walkway, or your home's structure. Look for the entrance to the Dispersion Area where stormwater is dispersed from a rooftop downspout with a splash block or from a level spreader.

Once you have found your Dispersion Area, it is important to maintain it. Keeping the Dispersion Area in working condition helps keep our local waterways clean. Below are a few of the maintenance tasks that may need to be performed:

FIGURE 1 *Dispersion Area (Cross-Section View)*



*Failure to conduct the recommended maintenance tasks may lead to a poorly operating Dispersion Area and may initiate an inspection.*

- **Mow or trim as appropriate to prevent overgrown vegetation.**
- **Remove dead vegetation and reseed or replant vegetation.**
- **If standing water remains for longer than 24 hours after a rain event, spread out standing water to nearby landscaped areas.**
- **Ensure the dispersion area is getting the proper amount of water to maintain healthy vegetation.**
- **Loosen or replace compacted soil to promote healthy vegetation and infiltration.**
- **Ensure downspouts and splash blocks are directed toward the vegetated areas.**
- **Ensure splash blocks, flow spreaders, or rip rap are not removed or obstructed.**

thank you for doing your part to

protect our waterways

For a list of other tasks, refer to the maintenance plans from your housing developer.

### *For Questions, Contact Us At:*

**Watershed Protection Program  
1-858-495-5323**

BMP.Program@sdcounty.ca.gov

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater>

