

# Maintenance Plan Checklist

All projects require some maintenance after implementation. Because every project is unique, you may require slightly different maintenance needs than what are listed here. This check list will help you understand some of the common maintenance activities that may be needed on your project. Project success cannot be expected without ongoing maintenance activities.

## First Year Activities:

- Watering** – New plantings need one inch of water per week. If there is little rain, watering your project will be needed.
- Weeding** – Check for weeds at least once every two weeks. Pull or spot treat weeds with herbicide as necessary. Pay extra attention for weed growth near project edges and paths.
- Mowing** – On sites where seeding was the primary planting method, the site will need mowing to control weeds. Mow when weed growth reaches 10 inches and before weeds begin to set seed (*this is very important*). Mower cutting height should be set at 4 to 5 inches.
- Plant Identification** – Become familiar with the native plants on your project. Also become familiar with the weeds. Find good identification handbooks to help you.
- Mulch** – Mulch plants as necessary throughout the growing season to prevent soil erosion, weed growth, and to hold in soil moisture.
- Wave Breaks** – If your project includes aquatics, make sure you maintain the wave breaks and fences that keep out predators, as plants become established.

## Second Year Activities:

- Dead Vegetation** – Cut back or rake dead vegetation if desired. This is only necessary if the appearance of the project is a concern. Leave dead vegetation standing in the fall to buffer the shore throughout the winter. The standing dried vegetation also provides winter interest, food, and cover for wildlife.
- Weeding** – Thoroughly weed site as it begins to green-up. Check for weeds at least once every three weeks. Pull or spot treat weeds with herbicide as necessary.

- Mowing** – If mowing is your primary weed control method, raise the mower cutting height from last year and set at 6 to 12 inches. *Remember to mow before weeds begin to set seed.*
- Water** – During drought periods provide plants one inch of water per week.
- Supplemental planting** – Plant replacement plants in spots with low survival.

## Third Year Activities & Beyond:

- Dead Vegetation** – Cut back or rake dead vegetation if desired in the spring. Leave dead vegetation standing in the fall.
- Weeding** – Check for weeds once a month. Pull or spot treat weeds with herbicide as necessary.
- Supplemental planting** – Plant replacement plants as necessary, continuous native vegetation cover is the goal.
- Expansion** – Consider expanding the project into new areas of your shoreline.
- Prescribed Burn** – Prescribed burning is a tool for weed control, increased flowering, seed production, germination of new native plants, and reducing undesired woody vegetation. Prescribed burns are typically conducted on a 3 or 4-year rotation. A [burning permit](#) is required before conducting a prescribed burn.
- Monitoring** – The project site should be monitored yearly. Monitoring should include notes on successful species, weed problems, disturbances issues (animal or human), and management needs. It is recommended you monitor one hour each month throughout the growing season and include written notes with photos of the project's progress.