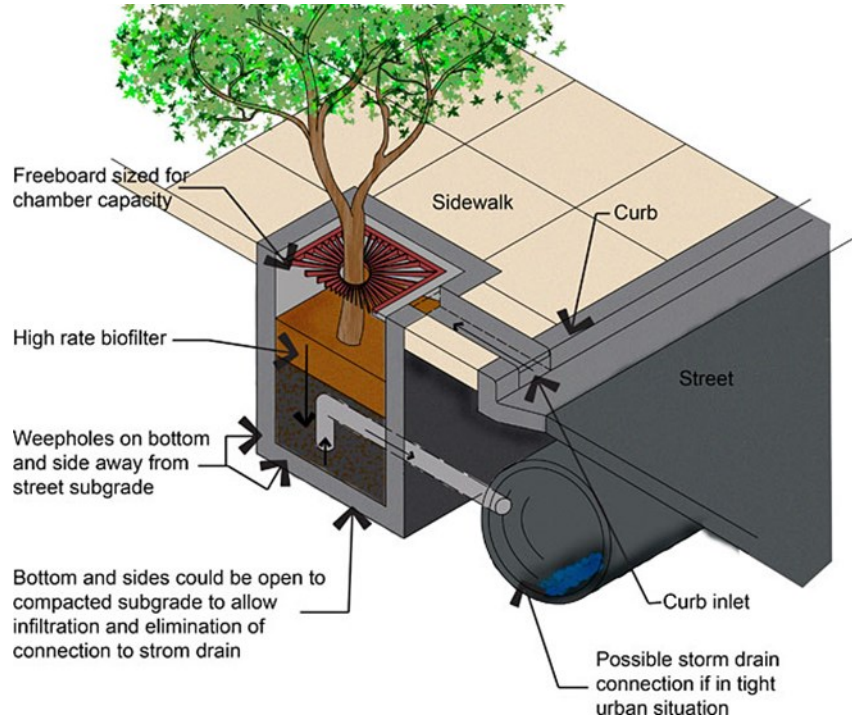


Tree Wells

Stormwater Tree Wells consist of an underground structure and above ground plantings which collect and treat stormwater using bioretention. These systems filter stormwater through layers of mulch, soil and plant root systems, where pollutants such as bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorus, heavy metals, oil and grease are retained, degraded and absorbed. Treated stormwater is then infiltrated into the ground or, if infiltration is not appropriate, discharged into a traditional stormwater drainage system. Numerous prefabricated tree pit structures are commercially available. These typically include a ready-made concrete box containing an appropriate soil mixture and may also include plantings, usually one tree or a few small shrubs. Although underground they differ, above ground stormwater tree wells closely resemble traditional street trees and are perfect for urban streets where space is limited. Ideally, stormwater tree wells are employed in conjunction with other stormwater best management practices.



Tree Well Maintenance Needs and Frequency • Periodic inspection of plants and structural components • Periodic cleaning of inflow and outflow mechanisms • Periodic testing of mulch and soil for build-up of pollutants that may be harmful to the vegetation • Biannual replacement of mulch

Cost-\$100 – \$500 annually/stormwater tree well

Many proprietors of prefabricated systems will offer annual maintenance plans which can cost up to \$500/year, however, if maintenance is performed by the stormwater tree well owner it can usually be done more economically.