

Cisterns

Description

Cisterns are storage tanks, located either above or below ground, that hold rainwater for beneficial reuse. Cisterns are multi-function systems that help to meet the Stormwater Regulations and collect water for reuse. Rainwater may be collected from rooftops or other impervious surfaces and conveyed to cisterns for storage. Stored water may drain by gravity or be pumped to its ultimate end use.

Key Advantages

- Can be used to provide rate control within small/constrained spaces
- Decrease demand on the municipal water supply and water costs for the end user, when used as part of a rainwater harvesting system in accordance with City, State, and Federal code restrictions
- Can be sited, through flexible design options, beneath lawns, recreational areas, parking lots, other impervious areas, or within buildings when space constraints exist
- Provide educational benefits, especially at public and/or highly visible sites

Key Limitations

- May not be able to fully meet the Water Quality requirement
- Limited to circumstances where there is a year-round water demand that can replenish storage capacity between storms
- May be subject to additional City, State, and Federal code restrictions
- Require draining before a freeze when located on the surface, to prevent structural damage
- Require strict adherence to regularly scheduled inspections because the maintenance needs are not easily visible
- Does not improve aesthetics or provide the ancillary environmental benefits associated with vegetated SMPs, such as habitat creation and improved air quality



DEVELOPMENT ATTRIBUTES

Construction Costs



LOW

Operations & Maintenance Costs



MODERATE

Likelihood of Failure



MODERATE

Ground-Level Encroachment



MODERATE

Building Footprint Encroachment



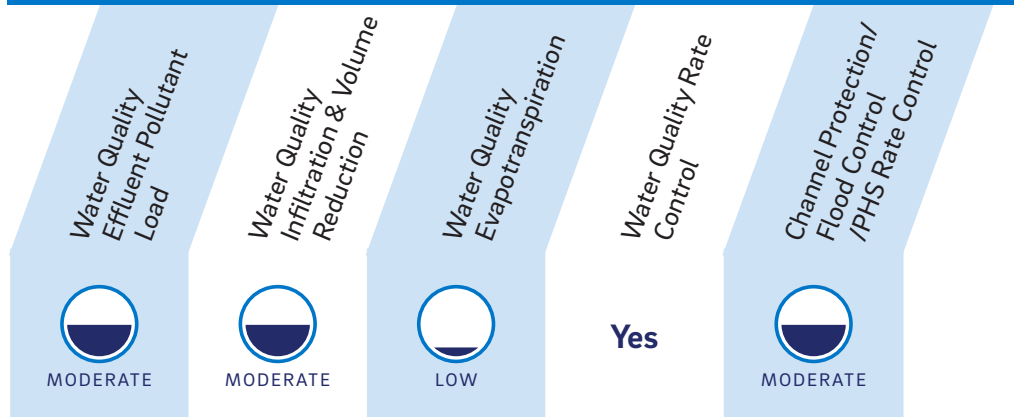
LOW

Triple Bottom Line Benefits



MODERATE

COMPLIANCE ATTRIBUTES



A description of each evaluated attribute can be found in the SMP Hierarchy Ranking Criteria in [Section 3.2.4](#).