

## How to Keep Your Neighborhood Pond Working Properly

Stormwater ponds collect and store stormwater runoff from residential and commercial developments. Rain and melted snow from driveways, streets, rooftops, parking lots and lawns flow into storm sewers that drain into the stormwater pond.

A stormwater pond is designed to help prevent flooding and remove pollutants from stormwater before it drains into streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands.

Inspection and maintenance are necessary for ponds to function properly. Trash and debris will clog outflow structures if allowed to accumulate. Sediment buildup and excessive plant growth can create pooling and interfere with proper flow of water through the pond. Regular maintenance can prevent small problems from becoming big, costly problems. Keep a watchful eye on your neighborhood stormwater pond.

Responsibility for inspection and maintenance of stormwater ponds varies among and even within municipalities. Good stewardship means learning how to keep your neighborhood stormwater pond functional, healthy and attractive.

Under no circumstance should stormwater ponds be used to dispose of waste materials. Doing so could result in very costly clean up and possible legal action.

A well-maintained pond is attractive and serves its purposes well: to prevent flooding and protect water quality.

For more information on stormwater management ponds, contact your Homeowner's Association or local municipality.

## Common Stormwater Problems & What to Do About Them

### NUISANCE WATERFOWL

Mowing to the water's edge provides ideal habitat for geese. Open water with easy shoreline access and visibility will attract geese. A vegetated buffer extending 3'-5' from the edge of the pond provides a natural barrier that geese and other waterfowl will avoid. Fencing at the water's edge is also an effective deterrent.

Never feed waterfowl. Feeding waterfowl, geese, and ducks will create a nuisance. Word spreads fast when the food is easy to come by and as creatures of habit waterfowl will establish residency. Congregations will destroy shoreline vegetation, their droppings will increase nutrient loadings and fecal coliform levels, and it is both unhealthy and unnatural for them.

Maintaining a 3' - 5' vegetated buffer zone leading to the water's edge functions as a pollutant filter, trapping eroded soil and lawn chemicals that may be transported by surface runoff.

### EXCESSIVE ALGAE GROWTH

Fertilizers, grass clippings and animal waste contain nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous that increase algae growth.

Use less fertilizer, apply less often or eliminate use completely. Application of any lawn chemical should be according to manufacturer's directions.

Never dispose grass clippings or yard waste in your stormwater pond.

Properly dispose of pet waste in a timely manner and implement strategies to control waterfowl activity.

Stormwater retention ponds, also called wet ponds, treat and filter stormwater runoff through settling and through nutrient uptake by plants and other aquatic organisms.

### EROSION & SILTATION

Water flowing over exposed soil will erode the banks of the pond and carry soil into the water causing siltation and water pollution.

Shoreline vegetation should be protected and disturbed as little as possible. Exposed soil should be seeded and mulched or planted with vegetation.

On steep slopes, bank stabilization with fieldstone or rip rap may be necessary. Contact your municipality for approval.

### STORMWATER POLLUTION

Stormwater from numerous storm drains merge to discharge into a stormwater

pond. A variety of pollutants from roads, driveways and lawns are transported to the water. Pollutants such as automotive fluids, lawn care chemicals, soap (driveway car washing!) and litter are washed off surfaces with rain and snowmelt and into the storm drains.

Clean streets (and driveways) = clean water! Fix oil and other automotive fluid leaks promptly. Contact your local Household Hazardous Waste Program for proper disposal of chemicals, lawn care products & automotive fluids. NEVER dump anything into a storm drain! And wash your car on the grass, that way the soapy water will not flow into a storm drain.

Keep your neighborhood litter free! Organize a clean up day & don't forget to include the pond area!