

# IMPORTANCE OF STORMWATER BASINS

Urbanized areas produce large stormwater runoff volumes due to large amounts of impervious surfaces. Stormwater runoff can pick up pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other waste, becoming a significant source of water pollution. A detention basin is designed to reduce the impacts of urbanization on local streams and rivers by collecting and slowly releasing stormwater, thereby improving stormwater quality as well as reducing peak flows.

Properly maintained detention basins can provide effective pollutant removal and necessary storage volumes during larger storm events. Improperly maintained detention basins can result in increased pollutants discharged downstream, risk of localized flooding, instability of downstream channels, and aesthetic and nuisance problems. It also is often very expensive to repair failed detention basins.



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# HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO STORMWATER POND MAINTENANCE



## DETENTION BASINS

A dry pond that is a permanent stormwater management facility for the temporary storage of runoff and designed to hold water for a short period of time (2-6 days).

They are composed of inlets bringing water into the pond and outlets releasing water to streams or drainage ways.



## RETENTION BASINS

A wet pond that is designed as a stormwater facility that provides permanent storage of runoff which is only released through percolation, evaporation and emergency overflow. They allow pollutants to settle before discharging into another water body.



## Step Up

Conduct periodic scheduled inspections of your basin and inspections after major rain events.

Inspect basin, inlets and outlets:

- Structural integrity - make sure they are not damaged or crumbling
- Erosion - check around pipes for erosion or missing rip rap
- Obstructions - check pipes for flow obstructions from debris, trash or sediment.

## Speak Up

Address issues identified during inspections by communicating with property owners association (POA)

## Follow Up

Conduct inspections at a minimum annually and notify POA if issues arise



## Basin Maintenance

- Check for litter and debris near inlets, in the basin, and at outfalls
- Remove and properly dispose of all litter and debris
- Inspect entire basin for bare soils and eroded areas
- Stabilize bare areas with seed and mulch
- Remove sediment that has accumulated to more than 6-12".



## Vegetation Management

- Mow regularly (4-6" grass height) to eliminate need for brush removal.
- Limit use of fertilizers & pesticides in and around basins.
- Remove noxious weeds and saplings.
- Remove vegetation around inlet/outlet structures to allow drainage.
- Remove trees and saplings that reduce capacity of the basin for water storage.
- Inspect vegetative growth in the spring & fall. Cattails should be cut & removed in late fall to minimize clogging from dead vegetation.

