

# Detention Pond Maintenance

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Stormwater runoff is a significant source of water pollution as well as a source of increased runoff in urbanized areas. Properly maintained detention ponds can be very effective at removing certain pollutants, including sediment; and providing necessary storage volume during large storm events. Improperly maintained ponds can increase the discharge of pollutants, the rate of flooding, and cause streambank instability downstream. Improperly maintained ponds are not only costly and ineffective for pollution prevention and flood control, but can potentially become a threat to public safety when left unchecked.

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**Definitions...**

**Detention:** The temporary storage of stormwater runoff in a facility in order to control the peak discharge.

**Dry Detention Pond:** A pond designed to not have a significant pool of water remaining after a storm event.

**Easement:** An acquired legal right for the specific use of land by others. Ponds generally have easements to allow for access and maintenance.

**Emergency Spillway:** Conveyance feature of a detention pond to discharge excess stormwater flows to maintain the integrity of the pond during substantial runoff events.

**Extended Detention:** The detention of stormwater runoff for an extended period, generally 24 hours or greater.

**Forebay:** An area located near the inlet that is designed as an initial storage device to trap and settle out sediment and other pollutants before reaching the main basin.

**Inlet:** A point where stormwater enters the pond.

**Orifice:** A controlled opening on the outlet structure through which stormwater is discharged from the pond (selected ponds).

**Outlet:** A structure that controls the rate of release from the pond and the water depth and the storage volume in the pond.

**Retention Pond:** A pond that is designed to have a permanent pool of water.

**Retrofit:** A device placed in front of an outlet structure to temporarily filter sediment.

**Rip-Rap:** Rock material typically used to stabilize conveyance channels.

**Rock Filter Ring:** A stone barrier constructed to filter sediment at storm drain inlets and pond outlets.

**Trash Rack:** A structural feature of the outlet that filters stormwater by trapping debris before runoff is discharged (selected ponds)

**Water Quality Pond:** A detention pond with an orifice sized to allow time for settling and filtering of pollutants before the runoff is discharged from the pond.



**Who’s responsibility is it?**

If you have a detention pond located on your property, it is generally your responsibility to ensure that the pond is properly maintained and in good working condition. In some cases, however, homeowner’s associations or the builder of the pond will assume responsibility for it. Find out who the responsible party is.

Detention Pond Maintenance Schedule	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mow slopes and easement area</li> <li>Litter/debris removal</li> <li>Repair eroded areas</li> <li>Seed/mulch or sod to restore needed ground cover in bare spots</li> </ul>	<b>Standard Maintenance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect for damage to slopes and pond floor</li> <li>Monitor for sediment accumulation in the forebay (if applicable) and pond floor</li> <li>Examine to ensure inlet and outlet structures are free of debris and are fully operational</li> </ul>	<b>Annual Inspection</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of sediment from forebays (if applicable) and other sediment controlling structures</li> </ul>	<b>5-7 Year Maintenance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor sediment accumulations, and remove sediment from the pond when the pond volume has been reduced by 25%</li> </ul>	<b>Long-term maintenance</b>

**DO...**

- Conduct inspections on a regular basis.
- Keep litter and debris removed from pond and easement area.
- Repair or replace damaged structural components.
- Remove vines and woody/brushy vegetation.

**DO NOT...**

- Mow vegetation in pond to less than 4 to 6 inches to maintain healthy grasses.
- Leave grass clippings or trimmings in pond; collect and dispose of it.
- Apply pesticides in pond area, or in areas where residue could make it into the pond during a storm event.