

Stormwater Ponds



What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt that runs off of hard surfaces such as streets, driveways, sidewalks and roofs. Stormwater moves across these impervious surfaces to flow into storm drains, then directly to our waterbodies. Along the way, stormwater picks up and carries any pollutants in its path. Common pollutants include trash, grass clippings, fertilizer, sediment, motor oil, leaves, pet waste, and salt from winter maintenance.



What are stormwater ponds?

Stormwater ponds are constructed ponds designed to capture and store stormwater runoff. They help improve water quality and mitigate flooding by giving water a place to collect. As water spends time in stormwater ponds, sediment is allowed to settle out of the water, pollutants are captured, and the water is slowly released, lessening flood risks downstream.

Although some stormwater ponds may resemble wetlands, they are not natural waterbodies.

Stormwater ponds are built to capture sediment and pollutants. This means that pollutants and sediment will accumulate over time. While it may seem counterintuitive, if you see algae, duckweed, or even trash, this means that the pond is doing its job to protect local lakes, streams, and wetlands.

After a storm event or snowmelt, stormwater pond levels may fluctuate while the pond works to decrease flooding risks for nearby areas.



Who is responsible for managing stormwater ponds?

Stormwater pond management isn't always cut and dry. Most stormwater ponds are owned by a local government unit or a homeowners association. Like any constructed stormwater practice, stormwater ponds require routine maintenance. If you have a concern about your stormwater pond, reach out to your local municipality.

VLAWMO may be able to provide grant funding for the installation of native plant buffers around stormwater ponds. Visit vlawmo.org/grants for more info or contact us to learn more.



Working to protect and improve water and natural resources in the watershed.

Visit our website or contact us for more information on stormwater, local water management, and ways to get involved.

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