



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

PONDS

Ponds are used to control floods and to treat stormwater runoff. The two kinds of ponds are detention ponds, also known as dry ponds, and retention ponds, also referred to as wet ponds. Dry ponds are common in arid climates and their main function is to hold stormwater for short periods of time and slowly release it so as to allow the system enough time to treat and hold sediments from polluting water bodies. Detention ponds can have the appearance of a well-manicured landscape or natural looking landscape. Native plantings are the preferred vegetation. Wet ponds on the other hand experience fluctuation in water level due to precipitation and runoff. Retention ponds contain a pool of water all year round or sometimes during the wettest part of the year. The presence of water in the pond all year round allows for the settling of sediments. Furthermore, wetland vegetation is introduced in the pond to elevate the pollutant treatment potential of the pond.

Who is responsible for this maintenance?

As the property owner, you are responsible for all maintenance of your pond.



Retention Pond (Wet Pond)

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR POND

- An unmaintained pond may:
- Increase stormwater runoff downstream as a significant source of pollution to our local streams and bodies of water.
 - Cease to reduce peak runoff rates causing flooding downstream of the pond.
 - Become an eyesore, breed mosquitoes, or create undesirable odors.

MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING

FREQUENCY*	ACTIVITY*
Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replant vegetation as needed.
Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mow embankments – minimum Spring and Fall. • Remove debris. • Repair eroded or bare soil areas.
Several times per hot/warm season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check mosquitoes by controlling plant population and water flow into the pond.
Semi-annually to annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up a trash and debris clean-up day • Remove invasive plants. • Replant vegetation (as needed). • Repair broken mechanical components if needed.
Every 3 to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipe and riser repair as needed. • Complete forebay maintenance and sediment removal when needed. • Hire a professional to conduct bathymetric measurements to determine the level of sediment accumulation in the pond.

* Follow manufacturer's guidelines

Office of Environmental Policy, 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 - Phone: 410-260-2200

<https://www.annapolis.gov/450/Stormwater-Management>

This fact sheet provides SWM practices information and maintenance requirements that are general in nature. Additional maintenance may be required based on the unique nature of your stormwater management practice.

Troubleshooting Issues

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Undercut, eroded, bare soil areas, and gullies in the bank	The side slope is too steep or incorrect plants or grass planted for the moisture or shade of the area.	Re-grade areas of gully formation and re-vegetate bare areas. Mow grassy areas on a regular basis.
Destabilized dams or embankments	Trees and brush with extensive root systems.	Remove trees and brush and replace with native vegetation or grass.
Mosquitoes	Stagnant water in a wet pond or water not infiltrating within 24-48 hours in a dry pond.	Perform frequent removal of the sediment, trash and debris that may clog the wet pond outlet/trash rack. In the case of a dry pond, remove built-up sediment.

INVASIVE PLANTS

“Invasive” describes a species that, when introduced into an ecosystem aggressively establishes itself at the expense of native plants or animals (*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*). Regularly inspect vegetation and remove invasive/nuisance plant species. For more information on invasive plants in Maryland, please go to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/invasives/Pages/default.aspx>.



Detention Pond (Dry Pond)