

Examples of Stormwater Management Ponds



GOOD: This stormwater management pond with natural vegetation, reduces waterfowl and helps to clean stormwater.



BAD: This stormwater management pond has problems with algae due to excessive fertilizer used by nearby residents and grass clippings decomposing in the water.

Common Misconceptions

Myth	Reality
Cattails and other vegetation make ponds unattractive and contribute to their deterioration.	Cattails and other vegetation stabilize shorelines, reduce nutrient loads and provide important wildlife habitat.
Healthy ponds host large populations of ducks and geese.	Ponds with high populations of waterfowl usually have high levels of pollution from their waste.
Dumping trash and used oil down storm drains is okay because it will go to the water treatment plant.	Most storm drains empty into local streams or nearby stormwater ponds.
Stormwater ponds are eyesores that require constant maintenance.	Stormwater ponds are designed to clean stormwater and decrease costly downstream flooding and stream bank erosion.
Stormwater ponds are breeding grounds for disease-causing mosquitoes.	Mosquitoes breed in pools of stagnant water. Correctly designed stormwater ponds are designed to minimize stagnant water. Disease-causing mosquitoes are more commonly found in stagnant water sources near homes such as: clogged roof gutters, wheelbarrows, old tires, flowerpots, and bird baths.

Information Resources

- Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District**
www.monroecountyswcd.org
 Still have questions? Call (585) 753-7380
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)**
 (585) 224-2466
Canada Geese Issues:
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7003.html
Aquatic Invasive Plants:
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html
- The Pond Guidebook**
 By Jim Oschterski, Bryan Swistock and Rebecca Schneider
 Produced by the Natural Resource, Agriculture, Engineering Service Cooperative Extension
 Available for purchase at Soil & Water Conservation District offices
- The Water Education Collaboration (WEC)**
 Tips to improve water quality
<http://www.h2ohero.org>
- Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County**
www.monroecounty.gov/des-stormwater-coalition

For more information, please contact:

Eric M. Williams, Asst. to the Comm. of Public Works
 Town of Perinton: Department of Public Works
 100 Cobb's Lane, Fairport, NY 14450
 (585) 223-5115 or ewilliams@perinton.org

Brochure provided by:



Living Next to Stormwater Management Ponds



What are Stormwater Management Ponds?

Stormwater Management Ponds are bodies of water in commercial and residential developments that collect and store stormwater runoff. These ponds improve water quality and control water quantity. Stormwater ponds reduce pollution and prevent downstream flooding. Stormwater ponds can be attractive or they can become eyesores depending on how they are managed.

Here is what YOU can do to help your neighborhood's stormwater pond.

Solutions to Common Stormwater Pond Problems

For detailed information and instructions see references on the back

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Preventative Steps</u>	<u>Corrective Measures</u>
Nuisance Waterfowl	Mowing vegetation up to the edge of the water creates desirable habitat for Canada Geese. Feeding of waterfowl.	Canada Geese prefer to enter and exit water where there is limited vegetation for their predators to hide. Mowing to the edge of a pond creates ideal habitat for geese.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't mow grass to the edge of the pond. • Allow for a natural vegetative buffer (shrubs and grasses) to grow 3-5 ft. from the edge of the pond. • Avoid feeding waterfowl. • Install a physical barrier close to the water's edge such as wire fence or bird netting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No single technique to discourage geese is always effective or acceptable. The persistent application of a combination of methods is usually necessary to yield the desired results. • For detailed information about Nuisance Canada Geese check out the NYSDEC website on back panel.
Algae Blooms	Excessive nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous and direct sunlight can cause rapid growth of algae.	Fertilizers, grass clippings, and pet waste contain nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous that promote increased algae growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizer on lawn areas. • Prevent grass cuttings or other yard debris from entering pond. • Reduce or eliminate waterfowl and/or pet waste from entering water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the amount of nutrients entering the pond by reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers from lawn areas. • Do not dump yard debris in or around the edge of the pond.
Erosion & Siltation	The action of water falling on or running over bare soil.	Water falling onto or flowing over bare soil causes erosion by displacing and transporting soil directly into ponds or other nearby water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid destroying natural vegetation (shrubs & grasses) near the water's edge. • Seed and mulch any exposed soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed and mulch bare soil areas. • When vegetative measures are not adequate, place fieldstone or rip-rap near the waters edge.
Nuisance Rodents	Muskrats and other rodents often make their homes in the banks of stormwater ponds, as these habitats are typically predator free.	Muskrats and other rodents impair the functions of a pond by burrowing into its banks, which can cause dam failures. Beavers can cause flooding issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor pond for evidence of destructive wildlife. • Place stone several feet above and below the waterline to prevent burrowing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For nuisance beaver and muskrats Contact the Town of Perinton: Animal Control office or NYSDEC office for permits and control methods.
Invasive Aquatic Species	The introduction of non-native species to the pond by humans and migrating waterfowl.	Species not native to the ecosystem such as curly pond weed or purple loosestrife can cause environmental harm by altering habitats for native plants and animals .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never dump water, plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically remove non-native species before they become more well-established. • Plant native species.
Human Pollution	Disposing of litter or dumping chemicals such as oil, paint, & gas onto land, or into storm drains that empty into the pond.	Most storm drains discharge directly into ponds or nearby streams and carry chemicals, soap, litter etc. from the land directly to the water without being treated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't dump anything into storm drains • Wash vehicles on the lawn to prevent soap from entering waterways. • Properly dispose of chemicals and litter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking or stenciling storm drains reminds people not to dump anything into storm drains. Contact the Monroe County ECOPErk Facility to dispose of chemicals: (585) 753-7600 x3.