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Eden Prairie City Center, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
edenprairie.org

Stormwater Ponds within City Outlots

The City of Eden Prairie is very fortunate to have a large variety of lakes, wetlands and stormwater ponds within the city. In 2008, the City adopted a Local Water Management Plan that regulates wetlands, stormwater ponds and other water bodies. These water resource areas are often used for water quality treatment, stormwater detention and flood control.

What is a Stormwater Pond? A stormwater pond is a pond designed to capture and treat water that flows across the ground and pavement after it rains or when snow or ice melt. Storm drains are located at low points on the sides of your streets and are connected to a series of underground pipes that run into stormwater ponds. In some cases, there is no constructed pond and the stormwater discharges directly into wetlands, creeks and lakes. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants that are then discharged untreated into the waterbody.

Living next to a pond or wetland that receives stormwater results in both benefits as well as responsibilities. The information below is intended to clarify property owner and city responsibilities and offer suggestions for what property owners can do to help maintain and improve the health of our city's aquatic and semi-aquatic environments.

City Responsibility

The City is responsible for maintaining the "hydraulic and treatment function" of water resources constructed for stormwater treatment that are located in either an outlot (city-owned property) or under a drainage and utility easement. This would include items such as removing sediment accumulation that is impeding the flow of water, removing obstructions to the flow of water, or clearing stormwater pipes that have clogged. The City does not treat stormwater ponds or wetlands for algae, weeds, odors or other aesthetic problems.

Stormwater Pond Maintenance

Following are actions prohibited on City-owned Outlots:

- Removal of native vegetation, including cattails, shrubs, trees or native grasses
- Placement of yard waste, tree debris or other materials in the Outlot
- Re-grading of the ground surface

These areas were graded to a specific plan to allow your neighborhood to receive stormwater and prevent flooding to homes and other areas within the pond's watershed.

Treatment of algae blooms may be allowed. However, the homeowners must contact the city for permission, file a Vegetation Management Plan and contract a professional lake or pond restoration company to perform the work.

Contact Information for Further Assistance

1 *Utility Department*
Assistance with Repairs
(952)949-8530

2 *Engineering Department*
Drainage concerns
Boundary locations
(952)949-8330

3 *Environmental Coordinator*
Vegetation management permit application
Report dumping of pollutants such as motor oil or paint
(952)949-8327

Water running through our storm drains is not treated.

Storm drains simply move stormwater runoff from yards, driveways, streets and parking lots to lakes, ponds, creeks or wetlands

Clean Streets Lead to Clean Water!

Stormwater Runoff and our Ponds

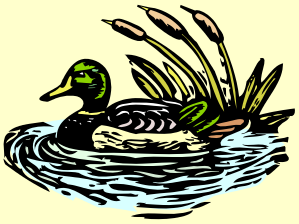
Stormwater ponds are treatment ponds constructed to intercept and treat stormwater runoff. In the past, this may have included the use of natural wetlands for the treatment of runoff. Algae or aquatic plants in ponds and lakes typically are a result of excess nutrients entering the pond through stormwater runoff. Nutrient sources or other pollutants that could be washed into our ponds include:

Thick growths of algae or nuisance aquatic plants in ponds and lakes typically come from excess nutrients that enter the pond through stormwater runoff.

- Lawn-care products such as fertilizers or pesticides
- Animal debris or waste
- Lawn clippings
- Oils, greases and automotive additives
- Dust and dirt from construction, streets or rainfall
- Wind-blown chemicals

Accumulation of nutrients and pollutants can result in poor water quality, blue-green alga blooms or excess weed growth. Polluting the watershed, or drainage area, around a lake, stream, wetland or pond directly affects the water quality in that water body.

What Can I do to Help?



Homeowners adjacent to or within the general drainage area of a wetland, stormwater pond, creek or river can work together to help minimize negative impacts by controlling runoff from their yards and streets. This would include actions such as:

- Preserve established trees, shrubs and vegetation
- Plant a natural buffer or filter strip to trap and clean runoff. The width should be a minimum of 25 feet, ***or*** the areas within the city outlot, ***whichever is wider***. The strip should have a mixture of grasses, shrubs and trees to be fully effective. *Sod does a poor job of filtering runoff* and should not be substituted for a buffer or filter strip.
- Use only non-phosphorus fertilizer, unless a soil test shows that additional phosphorus is required or during the first year that new sod or seed is installed. This is a State law.
- Do not dump grass clippings or leaves into the pond or storm drain. All matter that is or was living contains phosphorus, which is the nutrient that plants and algae use to grow.
- Don't pour anything down a storm drain!
- Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them off.
- Pick up animal waste and dispose of it in the trash.
- Limit soil erosion by maintaining healthy sod and grass. Reseed or resod all bare areas to keep stormwater from washing soil particles, which also contain phosphorus, into the storm sewer or pond.
- Do not allow any household or automotive chemicals to drain into the storm drain. Use biodegradable soaps for outdoor cleaning.
- Pick up, rake up or sweep up trash, leaves and grass from the yard, street or curbs.

Web-based Resources

Dept. of Natural Resources
dnr.state.mn.us/waters

Dept. of Agriculture
mda.state.mn.us/protecting

Hennepin County
www.hennepin.us

Univ. of Minnesota Extension
extension.umn.edu