



**MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT**
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

STORMWATER POND MAINTENANCE

You can help keep our water clean.

- Minimize the use of fertilizers and other lawn chemicals
- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street; compost yard waste
- Plant native vegetation to reduce irrigation and provide habitat for beneficial insects, songbirds, and other wildlife
- Properly dispose of oil, antifreeze, cleaners, and other household chemicals
- Wash dirty vehicles at a commercial car wash or on your lawn

Learn more:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:
www.pca.state.mn.us

University of Minnesota:
www.erosion.umn.edu
stormwaterbook.saf1.umn.edu

Minnesota Stormwater Manual

Plants for Stormwater Design

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

In a natural environment, most rainwater soaks into the ground or is captured by trees and other plants. As land is developed, it is covered by hard surfaces - roads, parking lots and rooftops - that prevent natural infiltration, and allow water to quickly run downstream. This runoff, known as stormwater, carries dirt, fertilizer, pet waste, pesticides and debris into lakes, streams and wetlands. Polluted stormwater runoff is the number one water quality problem in Minnesota and across the country.

In many urban environments, stormwater is managed with storm sewer systems that quickly move stormwater away to prevent localized flooding. However, storm sewers often drain directly into lakes, streams and wetlands, rapidly carrying pollution into our valuable surface waters.

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) are the primary method for dealing with polluted runoff. BMPs may include ponds, raingardens, porous pavement, green roofs, or other practices that temporarily hold, filter, or reduce stormwater. Slowing down or reducing the flow of water minimizes flooding and reduces the amount of pollution reaching downstream water bodies.

WHAT IS A STORMWATER POND?

Stormwater ponds are engineered basins designed to have a permanent pool of water (wet ponds) or to dry up after a couple of days (dry ponds). Stormwater ponds prevent flooding and remove pollutants in order to reduce impacts to lakes, streams, and wetlands.

Stormwater ponds help prevent flooding by slowing the rate water enters the receiving water bodies and storm sewer system. They capture and hold a prescribed volume of runoff for a specific period of time or until it is displaced by the next storm. During this time, particles and associated pollutants settle to the bottom of the pond. Plants in and around the pond help remove pollutants through biological processes.



In order to minimize impacts of development on downstream water resources, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District often requires that BMPs are installed and maintained as a condition of a Watershed District permit. Properly designed and installed BMPs must also be regularly maintained in order to achieve long-term clean water benefits.

- Proper maintenance allow stormwater ponds to perform as designed, reducing flooding and improving water quality.
- Well maintained stormwater ponds remain effective much longer and cost less to maintain.
- Regular maintenance is less expensive than major non-routine maintenance or reconstruction costs that can result from a lack of maintenance.
- Aesthetic appeal is maintained with proper upkeep.

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Visit the MCWD Permitting webpage:
www.minnehahacreek.org/permits.php



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MAINTENANCE TIPS

Routine maintenance

Routine inspections help you become familiar with your stormwater pond so you can identify small or potential problems when they are still easy to fix.

- Remove sediment build-up from pond inlet structures
- Remove debris and trash from inlets, outlets, and contributing drainage areas
- Remove dead or invasive plants and replace with native plants
- Re-vegetate areas of bare soil on pond side slopes and in contributing drainage areas
- Repair areas with minor erosion by filling with soil and re-vegetating
- Check that the large rock "splash pad" area where water comes into the pond is still intact

Signs that further maintenance may be needed if:

- Sediment build-up has reduced the volume of water the pond can hold
- Extensive erosion has occurred on pond side slopes or around structures
- Rip-rap (rocks) around inlet/outlet structures or "splash pad" area has become dislodged
- There appears to be damage to any of the pond structures
- Odor becomes a problem
- If dredging is needed, it should be conducted during the winter or the driest time of the year

Note: If non-routine maintenance is needed, you should consult a professional or contact MCWD for more information.