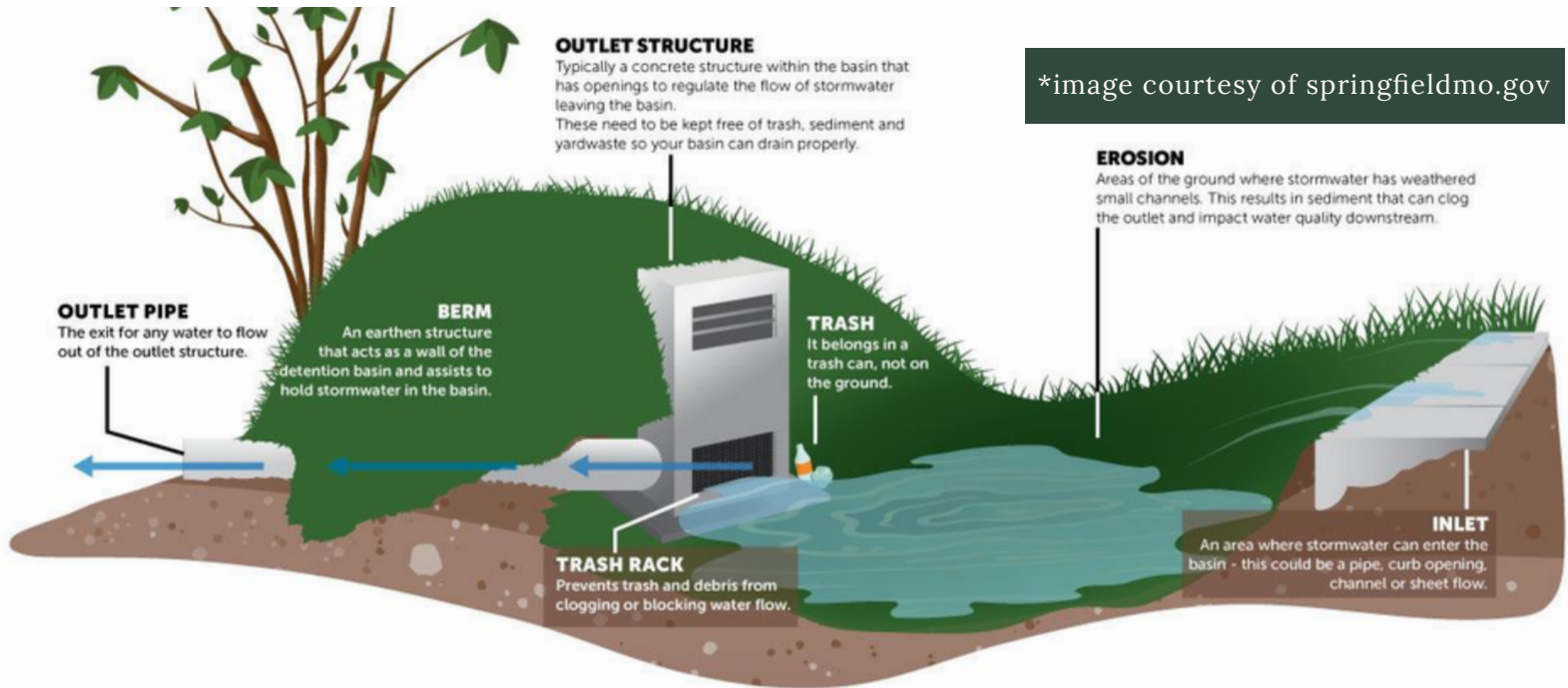


HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO DETENTION POND MAINTENANCE



ANATOMY OF A DETENTION POND

Your pond may look different from the example above.

- They can all look a bit different, but their purpose is the same. They are important for storing and slowing stormwater runoff from nearby areas, especially areas with asphalt or concrete development. Stormwater runoff flows much faster from these surfaces than naturally occurring areas and needs to be diverted to ensure the runoff occurs at the desired rate and it does not contain pollutants that may harm nearby waterbodies.
- Dry Detention Ponds temporarily store stormwater runoff while allowing time for pollutants to settle and the water to slowly be released off site. This reduces flooding as well as erosion to creeks and streams.
- Wet Retention Ponds have a riser and orifice at a higher point and therefore retains a permanent pool of water. A retention pond looks like a regular pond, but plays an important role in controlling stormwater runoff.
- If a pond is not functioning properly, no one is benefiting.
- If water is still pooling in a dry detention pond after 72 hours, then maintenance may be required.
- Refer to the construction drawings, As-Built certification, or contact the an engineer for clarification on design, and use the guide below to reference maintenance tasks.

PLANTS IN YOUR DETENTION POND

Help! There's plants in there... how to determine what is best for your pond.

Most detention ponds were originally designed with turf grass being the only vegetation present. However, over time ponds without proper maintenance can develop other plant species. Sometimes this can become a problem, and other times it is not.

- Not all tall plants in your detention pond are bad. Certain vegetation may be allowed to grow as long as it is not interfering with the pond's ability to function properly.
- Many native plants have deep root systems that help uptake water and hold the soil together. They also aerate the soil with their root systems, allowing better water absorption. Native plants also provide food and habitat for pollinators and other native flora and fauna that support the eco system.

Weather the vegetation in your pond should stay or go depends on many factors.

- One factor is the type of maintenance are you able to provide.
- Maintenance for a turf grass pond is different from one with other types of vegetation present. Typically, a turf grass pond will require only mowing or weed whacking of the grass on a regular basis along with some other basic maintenance tasks.
- Ponds with native vegetation can require more in-depth knowledge of vegetation and care. See the maintenance chart on the next page for more information.
- Ponds that have acquired invasive species will require more care and maintenance.

DETENTION POND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

SUGGESTED FREQUENCY

Remove accumulated trash & debris from the basin, around the riser pipe, side slopes, embankment, emergency spillway, and outflow trash racks. The frequency of this activity may be altered to meet specific site conditions.

Quarterly, or more frequently, as needed

Clear vegetation out of conveyances and remove sediment from around inlet(s) & outlet to reduce the frequency of main basin cleaning.

- Do NOT use herbicide, pesticide, or other chemical sprays in the pond. These have a negative effect on water quality & the environment

Annually, as needed, if applicable

Remove nuisance or invasive plant species.

- Do NOT use herbicide, pesticide, or other chemical sprays in the pond. These have a negative effect on water quality & the environment.

Annually, as needed

Trim overgrown vegetation in the spring & fall to prevent further establishment of woody vegetation. Remove all clippings from the pond. This also can aid in mosquito control and may add aesthetic value

Semi-annually, or more frequently, as needed

Keep vegetation around inlet & outlet trimmed to enable water to flow in and out

Quarterly, or as needed

Keep access (easement) to the pond clear of obstructions like structures and woody vegetation.

Annually

For turf grass ponds, mow the bottom and side slopes. Keep grass at a stand of 6-8". For native vegetation ponds, only mow side slopes, if applicable

As Needed

Repair erosion, may include: grading, seeding, or sod placement

As Needed

Monitor structural components (pipes, riser structures, or energy dissipaters for signs of deterioration such as cracks, sinkholes, and separation.

Annually, as needed

Supplement desirable native plants if a significant portion has not been established (at least 50% of the surface area). * This only applies to certain ponds, which have sufficient coverage already present by beneficial native plant species

Annually, as needed

Monitor sediment accumulation and remove accumulated sediment when it exceeds 10-20% of the basin volume, when accumulation reaches 6 inches, or if re-suspensions observed. Sediment removal may require re-grading the pond and establishing new vegetation. Clean in early spring so any vegetation damaged during cleaning has time to re-establish.

Every 10-25 years, as needed

Check inlet & outlet areas for erosion, as these areas can become vulnerable as water comes in and goes out. Make sure there is something in place to dissipate the energy of the water, such as riprap stones. Replace stones as needed.

As Needed