For more information and helpful links: Aurorawater.org
Environmental Inspections Group
Aurora Water
303.739.7370
**WHAT IS A STORMWATER POND?**

Stormwater ponds are designed to capture water during storms and to hold it temporarily before releasing it. Some stormwater ponds are lined with clay or plastic and are designed to hold water all of the time. Other stormwater ponds are designed to simply slow the flow of stormwater by capturing it for a short time and then releasing it.

Stormwater ponds do two important things:

1. Stormwater tends to move very fast. The pond slows the flow of water to help prevent erosion and then releasing it. Some stormwater ponds are designed to simply slow the flow of water during storms and to hold it temporarily before releasing it. Some stormwater ponds are lined with clay or plastic and are designed to hold water all of the time. Other stormwater ponds are designed to simply slow the flow of stormwater by capturing it for a short time and then releasing it.

2. Stormwater eventually flows directly into rivers and streams, and as it moves, it picks up trash, sediment and other pollutants. Stormwater ponds help trap that trash, sediment and debris so it stays out of the rivers and streams.

Ponds that are neglected can become very pricky to rehabilitate, so it's best to regularly inspect and maintain them. It's not complicated, but it does require some planning.

**PREVENTING POLLUTION**

City ordinances require those responsible for ponds to do all they can to prevent pollutants from entering the pond. That's most easily accomplished by not over-applying fertilizer near ponds, checking maintenance equipment regularly to make sure no vehicle fluids are leaking into the pond and hiring a certified applicator if pesticides are ever needed.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

1. Inlet structure: Is this where water enters the pond?
2. Low flow channel: These are at the bottom of the pond and are usually made of concrete. They help to channel smaller amounts of water through the pond and help prevent erosion.
3. Outflow structure: This is where the water leaves the pond.
4. Orifice plates: These are located on the pond side of the outlet structure. They help control the flow of water through the outlet structure.
5. Trap racks: These are designed to trap trash and prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater system.

To get started, it's helpful to know the various components of a stormwater pond:

- **Inlet structure:** This is where water enters the pond.
- **Low flow channel:** These are at the bottom of the pond and are usually made of concrete. They help to channel smaller amounts of water through the pond and help prevent erosion.
- **Outlet structure:** This is where the water leaves the pond.
- **Orifice plates:** These are located on the pond side of the outlet structure. They help control the flow of water through the outlet structure.
- **Trash racks:** These are designed to trap trash and prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater system.

**WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT**

- **Debris/trash removal:** You can keep an eye on this when you mow. If weeds are getting out of hand, you can hand pull them or treat with an herbicide. Be careful not to over apply it.
- **Vegetation removal:** Some vegetation is good for ponds, but too much will stop the water from flowing. Remove any trees, willows or shrubs that are blockading the flow. If you notice weeds growing, it could be an indication that your pond is not flowing properly. More often you check for this, the easier it is to remove.
- **Monitor flow:** Check occasionally to make sure water is flowing from the pond properly. If you are having flow issues, do not remove the inflow, orifice plates or trash racks. If you notice that, simply fill those ruts with new, clean soil, and if needed, replant anything that was washed away.
- **Check for algae:** Algae can affect water quality, but can be difficult to control if small amounts of standing water are in the pond. Make sure the trash rack isn’t blocked, and check for ruts at the bottom of the pond that allow water to pool. We don’t recommend using chemicals to treat for algae – it pollutes the storm water – but if you must treat it, hire a certified applicator.

**WHAT IS A STORMWATER POND?**

Stormwater ponds are located throughout the city, and if you have one on your property, it’s your job to ensure it operates properly. There are local, state and federal regulations concerning detention ponds, but we are here to help you learn how to keep your detention pond functioning as it should.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- **Debris/trash removal:** Check for trash monthly – and after big storms. Trash tends to get stuck in the inlet and outlet structures, and on the trash rack.
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