

WHAT ABOUT MY POND?

How do I maintain my pond?

Ponds should be maintained in a similar manner to other landscaped areas in and around your property. The pond should be kept mowed such that invasive plants do not cause operational issues and erosion is kept to a minimum. However, it is not necessary to maintain the pond like a lawn.



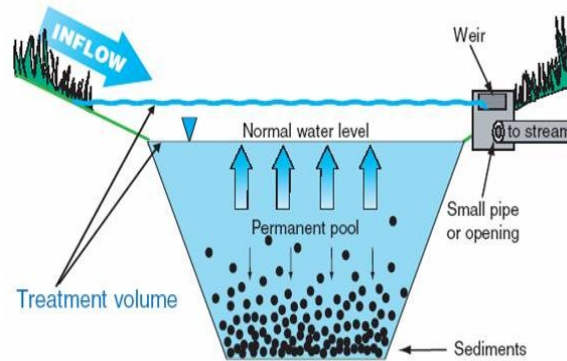
Debris and trash should be removed promptly and water should be able to flow freely into the pond and out of the outlet structure.

Erosion caused rills and other damage should be repaired promptly. Your efforts to maintain your detention pond will provide positive benefits to downstream property owners and reduce liability associated with damages from flooded properties. Additionally, it demonstrates your commitment as a partner in the community by working to make City of Warner Robins a great place to live and work.

What if my pond doesn't meet City standards?

The City of Warner Robins is committed to working with all property owners to identify the most cost effective means to achieve compliance with local and state regulations related to their detention ponds. If there are concerns with a pond, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (478) 929-1900.

KEEP WARNER ROBINS BEAUTIFUL



Typical detention pond design

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CITY OF WARNER ROBINS
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MANAGEMENT

DETENTION PONDS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DETENTION PONDS



What is a detention pond?

A detention pond is an engineered facility designed to temporarily store and slowly release storm water runoff that flows off of lands when it rains. These ponds operate similar to a bath tub with a partially clogged drain, whereby water accumulates in the tub when the water is running and then slowly empties after the faucet is turned off. Detention ponds similarly reduce the discharge rate of stormwater runoff on downstream properties by allowing the accumulated runoff to discharge downstream slowly instead of in a flood causing torrent.

How are they designed?

City of Warner Robins engineers and design professionals predict the rate and volume of stormwater runoff from an area draining to the detention pond. Often these calculations are performed for both smaller storms and larger flood causing storms. After the stormwater runoff rates and volumes have been calculated, a pond is designed to store the stormwater runoff and a device — known as an outlet structure (weir)— is paired with the detention pond to ensure that: a) there is enough volume in the pond to temporarily store the runoff, and b) the stormwater runoff rates are restricted enough to prevent downstream flooding and damage.

Why build a detention pond?

Detention ponds are required for all new developments in City of Warner Robins whenever a development will increase stormwater runoff rates on neighboring properties or streams. The need or lack of need for a detention pond is documented in an engineering report known as a hydrological study, which is submitted with the plans for a new development project in the City. All new developments, including commercial buildings, shops, industrial facilities, residential subdivisions, churches and schools are required to submit a hydrological study. Construction of the detention ponds is a key component in the City's strategy to lessen the impact of new development on existing homes, roads and private properties.

What are the benefits?

Some detention ponds built in recent years have also been designed and constructed to capture and reduce the level of pollution found in stormwater runoff. Additionally, a well maintained pond can also serve as a part of the landscaping design of the site.

Why is the City inspecting detention ponds?

As stated earlier, detention ponds are a key component in the City's goal to reduce potential flooding from new development on existing downstream infrastructure, homes and properties. As such, maintenance of these ponds is critical to this long-term goal.

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Warner Robins is also required under the Federal Clean Water Act to comply with the provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. One of the requirements of the permit is for the City to inspect all detention ponds and water quality devices within the City at least once every five years.

What causes a pond to fail?

A detention pond can stop working properly when it falls into disrepair. The outlet structure can become clogged if trash, debris, vegetation, limbs, etc. pile up around the openings of the structure. For a detention pond to work properly, the volume of the pond is designed in conjunction with the outlet structure. As such, if water cannot drain from the pond, the dam could be overtopped leading to severe erosion of the dam and in worst case scenarios, breach. Trees growing on the dam can cause failures if the roots allow water to flow through the dam. Finally, lack of grasses and other ground cover can lead to erosion issues which can also cause failure.