

STORMWATER COALITION

May

2015

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Information provided by the Stormwater Coalition, a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

The Stormwater Coalition is a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (419.241.9155). The coalition is composed of the following members:

Lucas County
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Wood County
(419.354.9000)
City of Bowling Green
(419.354.6227)
City of Maumee
(419.897.7150)
City of Northwood
(419.693.9327)
City of Oregon
(419.698.7047)
City of Rossford
(419.666.0210)
City of Sylvania
(419.885.8957)
City of Toledo
(419.245.1050)
City of Waterville
(419.878.8100)
Village of Haskins
(419.823.1911)
Village of Holland
(419.865.7104)
Village of Millbury
(419.836.9671)
Village of Ottawa Hills
(419.536.1111)
Village of Walbridge
(419.666.1830)
Jerusalem Township
(419.836.8921)
Lake Township
(419.838.6536)
Middleton Township
(419.823.1480)
Monclova Township
(419.865.7862)
Perrysburg Township
(419.872.8861)
Spencer Township
(419.865.2883)
Springfield Township
(419.865.0239)
Sylvania Township
(419.882.0031)
Washington Township
(419.726.6621)
Waterville Township
(419.878.5176)
Home Builders Association
(419.473.2507)

How can I keep my stormwater pond from becoming a nuisance?

Stormwater and snowmelt were once absorbed by undisturbed trees, vegetation, wetlands and other natural features. But as communities grew and formerly undisturbed natural space gave way to rooftops, roads and parking lots – what stormwater professionals refer to as hard cover or impervious surfaces – stormwater became unable to soak into the ground.

Stormwater ponds are constructed features that are engineered to hold and treat stormwater and snowmelt.

These ponds allow dirt and pollutants to settle to the bottom before slowly releasing water to nearby waterways, keeping some of stormwater's pollution out of our rivers. Because the ponds hold water for a period of time, they also reduce downstream flooding and stream channel erosion.

While these ponds are not intended for swimming or fishing, they can provide aesthetic value to a community if properly maintained. Residents and homeowners associations can help reduce algae and odors and promote an attractive appearance by taking simple actions. Remember, even if your property does not border the pond, what you do on your property will impact the water quality in the stormwater pond.

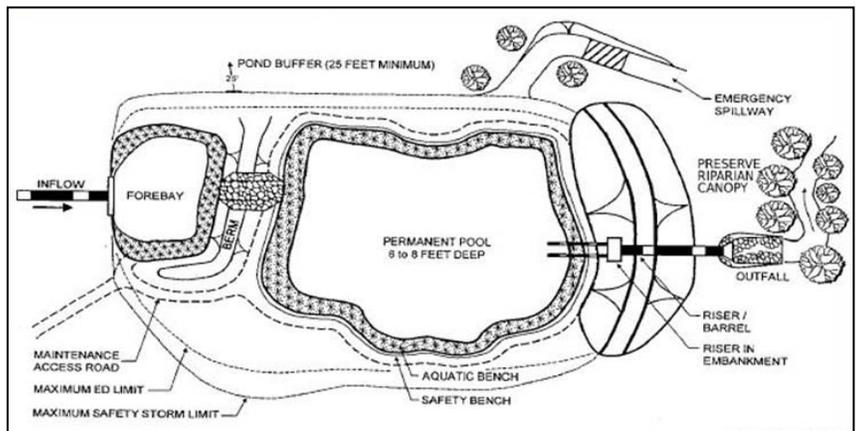
- Keep grass clippings and leaves out of ponds. As grass and leaves decompose, they produce phosphorus, the nutrient that promotes algae, which decreases oxygen in water and causes scum and odor. Mulch grass clippings and leaves or bag and dispose of yard waste. Never blow yard waste materials into the street or down any storm drain. Every storm pipe leads to a body of water that will be negatively impacted by such materials.
- Take a break from fertilizer. Your lawn may be just as green without it. Have soils tested to determine how much and what type of fertilizer to use. If you do fertilize, use only the necessary amount of phosphorus-free fertilizer. What the lawn does not absorb will be washed into storm sewers and ponds, promoting algal growth.
- Mow grass taller, promoting root growth. Plant roots open pore spaces in the soil, allowing more water to soak into the ground.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

(Continued on reverse)

- Do not over-water. Depending on the soil, lawns need only one to two inches of water per week, including rainfall.
- Turn downspouts onto lawns instead of driveways and sidewalks. This will allow stormwater to soak naturally into the ground, rather than allowing it to run into storm drains and ponds.



Stormwater pond conceptual drawing. Source: Maryland Department of the Environment

- Include native plants in landscape. Such plants are acclimated to the natural conditions and produce deep root systems that encourage rainwater to infiltrate into the soil, rather than run off into the stormwater system.
- Plant a rain garden to slow runoff from roofs, driveways and yards. This improves lawn health and reduces the amount of runoff needing management to maintain clean lakes. The Toledo-Lucas County Rain Garden Initiative has plans and plant lists available. <http://www.raingardeninitiative.org/>
- Plant buffer strips of plants, shrubs, and trees 25 to 50 feet in width around ponds to absorb nutrients, catch sediment, provide habitat, and add to the natural effect of ponds.
- Pick up trash and pet waste before it enters ponds or storm sewers. Keep trash out of the street and use proper disposal containers.
- Do not dump household or automotive chemicals in yards or storm drains. Included is chlorinated swimming pool water.
- Sometime trash and debris can clog a pond's inlet pipes and overflow pipes or risers (see conceptual drawing). To ensure proper pond function, report any blockages to your homeowner's association for maintenance.

Above information provided by the City of Blaine, Minnesota.

The members of the Stormwater Coalition (SWC) meet bi-monthly to discuss stormwater management issues important to our region. SWC invites you to learn more about pond management at the next Stormwater Coalition meeting. Eugene Braig of Ohio State University Extension will present "A Management Challenge: Water Quality in Retention/Homeowners' Association Ponds." To ensure adequate seating, please let us know you'll be coming. Email minarcin@tmacog.org.

Meeting Date: June 18th, 2015, 1:30-3 p.m.

Meeting Location: Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 300

Toledo, Ohio 43604