A GUIDE TO

STORMWATER PONDS

WHAT IS A STORMWATER POND

Stormwater ponds are designed to treat stormwater runoff and improve water quality. Stormwater ponds detain stormwater runoff for an extended period of time, allowing for the suspended pollutants to settle down to the bottom of the pond and prevent them from entering our streams and rivers. Stormwater ponds also help prevent flooding by providing temporary storage of runoff and hold the water for a short period of time.

WHY ARE STORMWATER PONDS IMPORTANT

A stormwater pond collects and treats stormwater runoff, which helps to safeguard water quality, as well as providing flood protection.

MAINTENANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

All stormwater ponds require maintenance.
The homeowners association is often the party responsible for maintaining a neighborhood's stormwater pond. Contact the developer of a neighborhood to determine whether the homeowners association is responsible for maintenance either now or starting sometime in the future. Regular maintenance, annual inspections, and periodic dredging are all necessary for proper pond management and to ensure a long stormwater pond life. If not adequately maintained, stormwater ponds can become an eyesore, breed mosquitoes, and create undesirable odors.

STORMWATER POND DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

When stormwater ponds are well designed and maintained, they can be moderately to highly effective in reducing the amount of nonpoint source pollutants that reach our waterways.

MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTIONS

Regular maintenance of a stormwater pond involves upkeep of the pond and its immediate surroundings, including periodic removal of trash and debris. Vegetation growth should be monitored and maintained as needed. Inspections should include an assessment of vegetation, the effectiveness of vegetation management, and the integrity of the pond's structure. In addition to these annual inspections, ponds should be inspected after major storms for side slope erosion and outfall structure damage, with needed repairs made as soon as possible.