

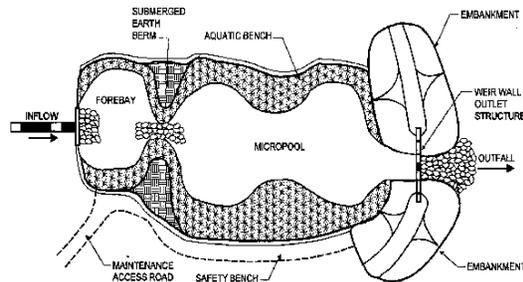
## THE PURPOSE OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PONDS

Stormwater ponds collect, store, and purify stormwater runoff. They are built to improve water quality and to prevent downstream flooding.

Commercial and residential developments increase the amount of impervious surface, and increase the amount and velocity of stormwater runoff. This causes erosion.

Contaminants and sediments from construction, polluted runoff from streets and driveways, lawn chemicals and other unwanted materials are carried in the stormwater. These cause contamination of streams and lakes.

## COMPONENTS OF A STORMWATER POND



Stormwater ponds are built with a forebay to allow sediment to settle out, a larger storage area, and an outlet structure. Shallow areas near the shore - "aquatic benches" and "safety benches" create places for plants to grow and provide a margin of safety for people and pets.

## MANAGEMENT OF STORMWATER PONDS

Stormwater ponds can be a beautiful, useful part of the community landscape. Human habits will help or harm the pond. Management is critical.



Native plants that require no fertilizer or pesticide and little other care will enhance the beauty of the area and attract songbirds and butterflies.

Dumping chemicals such as paint, oil, gasoline and allowing litter or wastes to enter stormwater ponds will damage their function and make them unpleasant.

## COMMON MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

### Cattails

Cattails and other plants stabilize shorelines, reduce nutrient loading and provide habitat for wildlife. Cattail stems host organisms that clean the water. Cattails will not spread over upland lawns: they grow where their roots stay wet.

### Geese

Let cattails grow to keep geese from entering your lawn. They relish freshly mowed grass, but avoid tall plants where they can't see predators approaching.

### Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. Properly designed stormwater ponds minimize stagnant water. Mosquitoes are more likely to breed in old tires, clogged roof gutters and other stagnant water sources.

Frogs, other amphibians and birds that live in the cover provided by cattails and other plants will help control insect populations.

### Algae Blooms

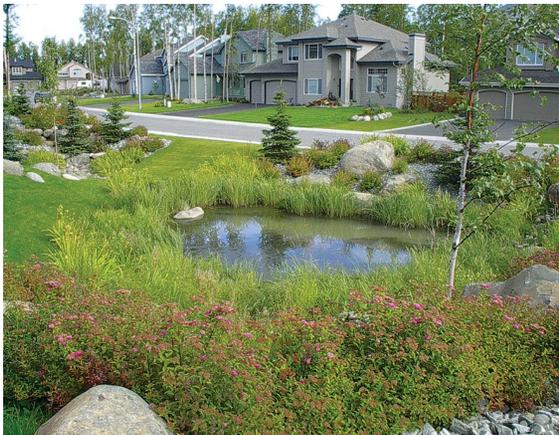
Reduce or eliminate fertilizers from your lawn. Phosphorus-free fertilizers are available. Lawns can't use phosphorus after they are established. Keep grass clippings and pet droppings out of the pond. Use a NYSDEC approved dye (Aquashadow®) or barley straw to reduce algae growth.

### Erosion and Siltation

Plant and protect shrubs and grasses near the water's edge.

## PROTECT YOUR POND

1. Don't mow to the edge of the pond.
2. Don't allow fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste, or litter to enter the water.
3. Protect shrubs and bushes near the water's edge.
4. Watch for muskrat and beaver activity that might undermine the dam. Contact DEC for control methods.
5. Wash vehicles on the lawn, not the driveway to prevent soap from entering the pond.
6. Watch for invasive plants (such as purple loosestrife) and remove before it becomes established.



## For Further Information:

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(Pond Siting Handbook online)

New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
(585) 224-2466  
Canada Geese  
[www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9003.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9003.html).  
Aquatic Invasive Plants  
[www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32861.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32861.html)



## Do You Live Near A Stormwater Management Pond?



## Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District

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