

## MORE INFO

- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [City of Abilene Environmental Recycling Center](#)
- [City of Abilene - Waste Disposal Information](#)
- [Texas 8-1-1 Call Before You Dig](#)
- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)
- [National Municipal Stormwater Alliance](#)
- [National Assoc. of Clean Water Agencies](#)



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## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POND

Save Our Waterways  
Clean Water, Healthy Life

Stormwater Services Division

# WHAT IS A STORM WATER POND?

A stormwater management pond is an engineered structure constructed to gather rainfall and surface water runoff. The pond temporarily stores water and then releases it as a controlled rate. A single pond can provide erosion and flooding control while enhancing water quality.

Through a combination of landscape and structural features, stormwater ponds allow sediment and contaminants to settle out of runoff before it is released into a natural waterway. Stormwater ponds also hold back water in order to release it at a controlled rate during large storms. Controlling the flow of stormwater protects downstream land from erosion and flooding.

In addition, stormwater ponds are constructed to be an attractive feature with an environmental benefit. Stormwater management facilities are designed to be surrounded by natural vegetation and to provide habitat for birds and

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Do not pour anything down the storm drain.
- Properly dispose of pet and yard waste.
- Minimize the use of herbicides & pesticides.
- Recycle and safely dispose of hazardous waste such as oil, paint and old batteries.
- Use eco-friendly salt alternatives to melt ice and snow.
- Drain pools & hot tubs after they are free of all chemicals including salt.
- Use a commercial car wash or eco-friendly soap.
- Ensure your vehicle is not leaking fluids.
- Plant native shrubs, wildflowers and trees.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Over time, sediment will accumulate in the pond reducing the pond's ability to improve water quality. As part of the City's Stormwater maintenance program, a pond clean-out will occur to restore the water quality function. During the pond clean-out the water level in the pond will be lowered to safely remove the sediment and some vegetation may need to be removed. The wildlife and habitat around the pond will be ecologically managed safely for the least amount of impact. The sediment will be tested for contaminants and disposed of safely. During pond clean out, additional repairs may be completed. It usually takes one or two seasons for the pond to look natural again.

## PROTECT NATURAL BUFFERS

Stormwater ponds are designed to mimic a natural system. It is important to allow a natural buffer to grow around the perimeter of the pond. The natural buffer is made up of native plants and grasses and should not be mown or trimmed. It is important to note that the property line for homes near stormwater ponds do not extend to the water's edge. These buffer areas should not be altered.

## CURB THE SALT USE

During winter months, salt can be an effective way to melt ice on our sidewalks, steps and driveways. However, the salt eventually washes into our creeks, lakes and groundwater. Too much salt can harm fish in local creeks and irritate your pets' feet. Reducing salt use can decrease negative impacts to our environment. Remember, only rain down the drain.

## REDUCE OR ELIMINATE USE OF CHEMICALS

The use of pesticides or fertilizers on lawns around stormwater ponds should be limited or eliminated completely. These chemicals are easily carried away by runoff into the stormwater pond which can cause algae blooms and negative impacts to the downstream natural waterways. Use organic alternatives to chemicals and plant native species that require low maintenance and no pesticides.

## PLANT WISELY

Planting native species of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers has numerous benefits. Native species greatly reduce the amount of water used for irrigation, chemical used for growth and pest control.

## MANAGE YARD WASTE

Dumping yard waste in natural areas or around stormwater ponds can have an adverse affect to the health of the natural system. Dumped materials smother natural vegetation, may contain harmful chemicals, and non-native plant seeds. The best solution is to compost leaves, grass clippings and weeds on your own property.

