



Stormwater Facilities & Maintenance

Wet & Dry Ponds

A Wet Pond (Figure 1) is a depression that holds a permanent pool of water year-round or during the wet season. These ponds are often lined with clay or plastic, allowing time for sediment to settle out of the runoff. Wet ponds can also be used for the temporary storage of stormwater runoff to prevent neighborhood flooding.

A Dry Pond (Figure 2), or “infiltration pond” is a large depression in the ground that temporarily stores stormwater runoff during storm events. Dry ponds are typically seeded with grass to help filter pollutants from the runoff. Stormwater then gradually absorbs into the ground. Dry ponds resemble an open field during the dry months.

Pro Tip:

Cattails should never cover more than 25% of the pond surface. When removing overgrowth, pull out the entire root mat - taking care not to damage the pond liner.



Figure 1: Wet Pond
Typically holds water year-round



Figure 2: Dry Pond
Designed to function as an open field until the rainy season



For information on noxious weeds, visit:
co.thurston.wa.us/tcweeds

Maintenance required when:

- Excessive vegetation growth (e.g. grass over 10 inches high)
- Cattails cover more than 25% of pond
- Yard waste and/or debris in pond
- Evidence of oil, gasoline, contaminants, or other pollutants
- Erosion on pond slope or near inlet/outlet pipes
- Noxious weeds in or near pond

Contact your HOA or property manager immediately if:

- Inlet/outlet pipes blocked
- Pond is overflowing
- There is damage from a storm or vandalism
- Evidence of illegal dumping and/or oil in or near pond

Visit us online:
ThurstonStormwater.org

Don't let your systems fail.

Water that flows through inlet pipes should fall on a splash pad made of riprap (rocks).

Keep inlet structures free of trash and debris and remove sediment, plants, and trees growing near the end of the pipe. Hire a professional to fix broken trash racks.



A well-maintained inlet pipe and "riprap" splash pad



Neighborhood stormwater pond

Flow Control Devices slowly release stormwater from a pond to another location if the water rises to a certain level. These devices help prevent erosion, and provide time for pollutants to settle out of the stormwater.



Flow Control
(e.g. Metering Devices)

Keep water clean. Protect county roads from flooding. Save money.

Most ponds have an emergency spillway, also made of riprap. Water can overflow at this location if the pond becomes overly full due to a significant storm event. Be sure to keep pond spillways clear of vegetation growth and trash.



A clean and clear pond spillway

For additional information regarding stormwater management in Thurston County, reference our Stormwater Drainage Manual at DM.ThurstonStormwater.org.