

Frequently Asked Questions:

Subdivision detention or retention basins are designed to capture and slowly release stormwater while holding back pollutants such as sediment, debris and trash.

Who is responsible for construction and maintenance?

During development, developers have designated responsibility for proper construction and maintenance. After all stormwater infrastructure is in place and escrow is released, the maintenance responsibilities transfer to the homeowners associations (HOA). This maintenance includes but is not limited to, removal of debris built up, trash and excess sediment or silt. The City maintains the structures leading to the basin.

How often should a basin be mowed?

If all turf grass, then it should be kept at 8" in height or less. If your basin is or has been converted to a conservation area or mitigation area, then your mowing requirements may be different. We suggest calling the Stormwater Dept to discuss a mowing schedule for natives, conservation or mitigation areas.

Is the basin supposed to hold water?

Yes, basins are designed to hold large amounts of water and allow the water level to decrease slowly to protect downstream waterways and properties.

Why is the lake/pond full of mud?

If you have a lake/pond in your subdivision, it is probably a retention pond. It is designed to remain "wet" and its job is to capture and release stormwater slowly while trapping sediment. Over time, these basins fill up with silt/sediment and require maintenance such as dredging to remain functional and prevent pollution.

Citizen's Guide

Retention Pond & Detention Basin

Maintenance



Detention Basin



Retention Pond

DETENTION BASIN MAINTENANCE

(DRY BASIN)

Operation & Maintenance

- Should not only occur when a complaint is received
- Should be both “preventive” and “corrective”

Maintenance Problems & How Often To Address

- Grass and Weed Growth
As needed
- Sedimentation
Bi-Annually or as needed
- Bank Deterioration
Bi-Annually or as needed
- Mosquito Control
As needed
- Outlet Stoppage
Bi-Annually or as needed
- Concrete Swale Maintenance
Bi-Annually or as needed
- Standing Water or Soggy
Monthly or 72 hours after rain
- Pollution/Trash/Debris
Monthly or 72 hours after rain
- Algal or Fungal Growth
As needed
- Outfall Structure
Bi-Annually or as needed
- Safety Device Maintenance
Bi-Annually or as needed

RETENTION BASIN MAINTENANCE

(WET BASIN)

Operation & Maintenance

- Should not only occur when a complaint is received
- Should be both “preventive” and “corrective”

Maintenance Problems & How Often To Address

- Grass and Weed Growth
As needed
- Sedimentation
Every 5-10 Years
- Bank Deterioration
Bi-Annually or as needed when volume has become reduced (roughly 15-20% of the basin)
- Mosquito Control
As needed
- Aquatic Plants
Nuisance Plants-Early spring and late fall
- Pollution/Trash/Debris
Monthly or as needed
- Algae Growth
As needed (do not fertilize close to banks)
- Outfall Blockage
Bi-Annually or as needed
- Safety Device Maintenance
Bi-Annually or as needed

*Report all dumping or hazardous waste spillage concerns immediately to:
City of O'Fallon Stormwater Management Coordinator at
(636) 240-2000
Missouri Department of Natural Resources at
(314) 416-2960*