

FACT SHEET FOR.....

Detention Basin Maintenance and Retrofits page 1

Ordinance 405.240

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Stormwater detention basins are dry except during rain events when they collect water. The basins then slowly release runoff through the outfall structure, for flood protection of properties located downstream.

- **What is involved with “maintenance” of a detention basin?**

- Trash/debris, yard waste/debris, excess sediment, invasive vegetation species should not be allowed to accumulate in the basin.
- The basins should be mowed per the City mowing ordinance requirements. (220.100)
- If a concrete swale is present, it should be in good working condition and free of cracks, debris or other items that can obstruct flow to the outfall structure.
- Basins should have proper vegetative cover and no bare areas where soil erosion can occur.
- Outfall structure openings should not be obstructed. The structures need to be evaluated for structural integrity and refrain from having leaks, safety devices or lids missing.

- **What do I need to address standing water/saturation in basin?**

Evaluate as to why the standing water/saturation is occurring. Is it from a natural ground source seeping up somewhere in the basin? Is it from a constant flow into the basin from upstream runoff?

- **Can I remove the concrete swale?**

The City does allow for removal of concrete swales from basins with the following recommendations:

- The concrete can be broken up and re-used in place of the swale as long as it is placed in such a manner not to prohibit proper function of the basin with regard to discharge of stormwater.
- The concrete swale can be removed, the swale re-graded and vegetated with turf or other approved type of vegetation. Use of anything other than turf requires approval from the City and shall include a maintenance schedule.
- Concrete swales are no longer a City design requirement.

Stormwater
Management
Program

O'Fallon MO

<http://www.ofallon.mo.us/stormwater-management>



To Report Concerns Contact:

Stormwater Department

Phone: 636-379-7632

email: micheleg@ofallon.mo.us

To review a copy of the full ordinance:

<http://ecode360.com/27644490#27644490>

Detention Basin Maintenance/Retrofits (Con't) page 2

Ordinance 405.240

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **Can I remove the concrete swale? (Con't)**
 - The Concrete swale can be broken up, hauled off and new rock material brought in.
 - Keep in mind that, if you replace your concrete swale with rip rap rock or utilize broken up concrete, you may want to consider putting down some type of weed barrier or other filter fabric material to prevent unwanted vegetative growth throughout the swale. If you chose not to utilize a filter fabric of some sort, you may have to trim or treat the area to prevent unwanted or excessive vegetative growth.
 - Removal of the concrete swale can help with preventing non-point source stormwater pollution by allowing the “first flush” which carries the most pollutants, by allowing the flow into the basin to slow down, spread out and soak in before exiting as quickly as it enters.

- **Can I convert my detention basin or part of my detention basin to a native landscape or more naturalized detention basin?**

Yes, there are options available to retrofit the detention basin in part or whole to a more native landscaped basin. Any plan to do so is subject to City approval and requires a design plan and maintenance schedule to be submitted, approved and followed as well.

You may decide to retrofit only the swale portion of the basin to a native landscape or “bioswale”. There are many options. It is recommended that you discuss with City staff for more information when deciding whether this would be an option you would like to consider. This will also require City approval via plan submission, approval and a maintenance schedule to be followed.

Please refer to Municipal Code Section 405.240 for more details

Stormwater Management Program

O'Fallon MO

http://www.ofallon.mo.us/dept_swm.htm



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