

A Guide to Stormwater Pond Maintenance

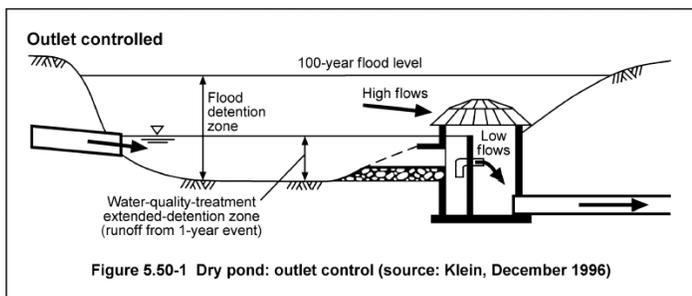
What are Stormwater Ponds?

Stormwater ponds, which are usually dry, are a common sight in urban and suburban areas. They are constructed during the development process to safeguard water quality by collecting and treating stormwater runoff and to protect against flooding. Both state and local law require that these ponds be maintained regularly to properly manage stormwater runoff.



How Do They Work?

These ponds detain surface water and allow pollutants such as sediment, organic compounds, and other impurities to settle out, volatilize, or breakdown. Rainwater flows to stormwater ponds by a combination of overland flow, ditches, swales, and underground pipes. Once runoff reaches a stormwater pond, the sediment settles to the bottom. The water that entered as polluted runoff leaves the pond gradually through an outfall structure, ultimately resulting in cleaner water entering the receiving creek or river.



What is the Problem?

Although a great deal of effort is usually put into the design and construction of stormwater control ponds, little consideration has been given to the long-term maintenance of these important structures. Many local ponds have been neglected since built, and are in need of clearing, mowing, re-grading, having slopes re-planted and stabilized, clearing clogged inlet and outflow structures, and being put on a regular maintenance schedule.



What is Being Done?

The Augusta Engineering Department is working to:

- Inspect each pond in the Augusta-Richmond County area.
- Increase public and commercial awareness of and compliance with stormwater pond maintenance regulations.
- Partner with local landscapers and land management firms. Although ARC is responsible for monitoring these ponds, private and commercial owners are responsible for contracting and paying for maintenance of these structures.

