

Pond Waste Disposal

Pond owners are responsible for the safe disposal of pond waste. In general, sediment removed from ponds in Austin has not been found to be hazardous. However, ponds used to treat storm water are designed to capture and concentrate pollutants. Normal disposal options include:

- A local solid waste landfill
- A non-hazardous waste disposal service
- A beneficial reuse such as a road bed dressing or as fill material (requires TCEQ or City of Austin approval prior to reuse)

Contact the landfill or waste disposal service in advance for their specific waste acceptance requirements.

If you have a petroleum, pesticide or other chemical spill that enters the pond, the contaminated media may need to be removed and replaced.

You can contact the 24 Hour Pollution Hotline for more information. Generally, if you suspect that sediment or soil in your pond may be contaminated at levels that would be considered hazardous, testing should be done. If the tests show hazardous constituents above regulatory levels, materials must be disposed of as a hazardous waste under Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requirements.

Benefits of Proper Maintenance

A well-maintained pond is more attractive and best serves its purpose(s) -- flood and/or water quality protection. Regular maintenance will reduce the need to rebuild a pond that has failed and the risk of fines for non-compliance with government regulations. Please join in providing a safer and healthier environment!

Contacts

City of Austin

Pond Permitting Inspection and Maintenance:

- Residential **974-3350**
- Commercial **974-2723**
- Operating Permits in Barton Springs Zone **974-2715**

Ponds Under Construction: **974-7180**

24 Hour Pollution Hotline: **974-2550**

For further information, visit www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/maintenance.htm

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Waste Storage, Disposal and Testing Requirements: **339-2929**

Health and Human Services

Mosquito Breeding and Stagnant Water Complaints: **972-5600**



Watershed Protection
Development Review

Stormwater Ponds

Maintenance Guidelines

Partial Sedimentation / Filtration Pond



Filtration Pond



Wet Pond



Detention Pond



To prevent flooding, erosion and pollution of our creeks and waterways, new development in Austin is required to construct on-site storm water management ponds. These ponds slow down storm water in a holding area to reduce downstream flooding and erosion and/or they filter or retain water so that pollutants are trapped in the pond rather than traveling to waterways. This brochure will provide you with general maintenance guidelines to help you comply with City of Austin requirements.

Pond Inspection:

Maintenance is extremely important in order for ponds to function properly. As well as looking unattractive, trash and debris promote clogging. Accumulated sediment and excessive plant growth can create pooling and prevent proper flow of water through the pond. Regular maintenance can prevent more serious problems that can be very costly to fix. To verify that your ponds are performing properly,

inspect them regularly. In general, ponds should be inspected after large storm events and at least once a month to determine if any maintenance is needed. Landscape maintenance companies may be able to provide this service for you.

In no case should stormwater ponds be used to dispose of waste materials. Doing so could result in a very costly clean-up and potential legal action.

Maintenance:

To comply with the City's pond maintenance requirements, the following maintenance guidelines must be followed.

All Ponds

- Mow vegetation on pond sides that exceeds 18" in height. Care should be taken that special plantings provided in the original design are not disturbed
- Remove trash, paper, plastics and other debris regularly
- Repair any erosion at inlets, outlets, or pond sides and repair deterioration or damage to the pond's structural elements as necessary. To limit erosion, un-vegetated areas should be reseeded or sodded
- If the basin storage volume is reduced by more than 10%, remove sediment and return the main basin to original lines and grades

Dry Ponds

- Remove sediment that exceeds 6" in detention ponds, or that causes standing water

- Remove sediment build-up, trash and debris at the inlet or outlet structures regularly (at least once a month)
- If standing water occurs, or the basin storage volume is reduced by more than 10%, remove sediment and return the main pool to original lines and grades
- Prevent standing water to avoid mosquito breeding and stagnant conditions
- Provide corrective maintenance if a detention pond does not drain within 60 hours
- If a sedimentation/filtration pond does not drain completely within 36 hours after the storm flow enters the pond, clear blocked outlet in detention and sedimentation basins, and clean the surface of the media in filtration basins

Wet Ponds

- If the basin storage volume is reduced by more than 10%, remove sediment and return the main basin to original lines and grades

If you have bought a property with an existing pond and need help identifying what type of structure it is, call 974-7180.

Types of Ponds

Detention Ponds

Open structures, such as ponds, vaults or tanks, that are designed to slow down stormwater runoff. Water is "detained" for a short period (usually in terms of hours) and then slowly discharged from the pond. Their primary purpose is to prevent flooding. They provide very little treatment of pollutants.

Filtration Ponds

Basins designed to filter stormwater runoff through a layer of sand before being discharged to the storm sewer system or a creek. The sand captures pollutants such as sediment, heavy metals and oil. Because of the potential for clogging, these structures require an initial settling basin that prevents

some of the larger materials from entering the second pond that contains the sand filter.

Retention/Irrigation Ponds

Used primarily in the Barton Springs Zone, these open designs "retain" stormwater, usually for up to three days. Stormwater is pumped out of the structure and irrigated on the site.

Wet Ponds

A retention pond that contains a permanent pool of water. Planted with aquatic plants, they are more effective than filtration ponds at removing nutrients associated with landscape chemicals.

before cleanup



properly maintained



City staff inspect commercial and residential ponds for compliance with regulatory requirements. An owner may receive a notice of non-compliance if a pond is found to be poorly maintained, not functioning properly or access to the pool is limited. Staff are also available to provide recommendations to businesses and property owners on how to comply with maintenance requirements. Call 974-7180.