

## What is a Dry Pond?

A dry pond is a SWM facility that is designed to hold stormwater runoff, then release the runoff over a period of time.

The purpose of a dry pond is to allow time for pollutants and sediment to settle out of water, and to manage the volume of stormwater runoff in order to prevent floods.

A dry pond generally appears to be a grass basin. It is not designed have a permanent pool of water, and therefore should not have standing water during dry weather conditions.

A dry pond can be located on parkland, next to roadways, or on recreation or school fields. Once constructed, the entire site is fully landscaped to blend into local surroundings. When empty, a pond may be designated as a recreation area in some cases.



## SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE ACTIONS\*

### ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

- All dry pond components expected to receive and/or trap debris and sediment should be inspected for clogging and excessive accumulation at least annually, or as needed; these components may include pond inlets, outlets, forebays, low-flow channel liners, and energy dissipaters.
- All structural components should be inspected for cracking, subsidence, spalling, erosion, and deterioration.

### AS NEEDED

- Mowing/trimming of vegetation should be performed on a regular schedule based on specific site conditions; perimeter grass should be mowed at least once a month during growing season.
- Repair and revegetate eroded areas in the basin and channels.
- Remove sediment.
- Inspect after every major storm event.

### DO NOT:

- Allow animals to burrow into the pond embankment.
- Use excessive fertilizers or pesticides in your dry pond as they are usually not needed and can contribute to water pollution.
- Remove or alter your dry pond.

### Who is responsible for this maintenance?

As the property owner, you are responsible for all maintenance.

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR DRY POND

An unmaintained dry pond may:

- Allow trash, sediment, and pollutants to enter into our local streams.
- Cause flooding and safety concerns if the pond fails.
- Be difficult or expensive to repair if left unmaintained.

*\* Please refer to the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I and II for minimum requirements and procedures for maintaining BMPs. This document serves as the official guide for stormwater management principles, methods, and practices in the State of Maryland. Visit <http://bit.ly/MDESWDM>.*

## Troubleshooting Issues

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Erosion on the embankment.	Concentrated runoff and/or poor turf management.	Address immediately to avoid further erosion. Stabilize the eroded areas by planting new vegetation. Consider using standard erosion control measures.
Damaged or clogged inlet and outlet channels, pipes and/or trash racks	Clogging due to leaf litter, sediment, or debris accumulation.	Remove any visible debris from the surface. Repair or replace damaged structures to prevent functionality failure.
Standing water is observed in the dry pond more than 72 hours after a rain event.	Structural elements of the pond (including pipes, trash rack, control structure and concrete trickle ditch) are damaged or deteriorated or there is excess sediment accumulation.	Inspect for damage or blockages in structural elements. Remove blockages and repair damages immediately.

### Recommended timeframes for routine maintenance

Structures, inlets, and piping	Inspect annually - repair/replace as needed
Accumulated pond sediment	— As needed —
Mowing and Trimming	— As needed —
Remove Tree and Woody Vegetation	— As needed —
Remove Trash and Debris	— As needed —
Erosion Control	— As needed —

### Dry Pond Example (for illustrative purposes only)

