

What is a Wet Pond?

Wet ponds, also known as retention basins, are used to address the stormwater quantity and quality impacts of land development. This type of stormwater facility has an elevated outlet structure that creates a permanent pool where stormwater runoff is detained and attenuated.

Wet ponds can be designed as multi-stage, multi-function systems; extended detention in the permanent pool provides pollutant treatment for runoff from the Water Quality Design Storm through sedimentation and biological processing; detention and attenuation are also provided for larger storm event through the higher elevation outlets.



SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE ACTIONS*

ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

- All wet 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 forbays, bottoms, trash racks, outlet structures, and riprap or gabion aprons..
- All structural components should be inspected annually 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.
- Cut back and/or remove any vegetation impairing functionality.
- Inspect after every major storm event.

DO NOT:

- Allow animals to burrow into the pond embankment.
- Use excessive fertilizers or pesticides in your wet pond as they are usually not needed and can contribute to water pollution.
- Remove or alter your constructed wetland . If you claimed your constructed wetland for the Stormwater Credit Program, removing or modifying it can result in loss of credit.
- Allow sediment to buildup and accumulate.

** 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>.*

Who is responsible for this maintenance?

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

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR WET POND

An unmaintained wet pond may:

- Stop filtering the rainwater and allow trash and pollutants to enter into our local streams.
- Cause flooding and safety concerns if it fails.
- Be difficult or expensive to repair if left unmaintained.

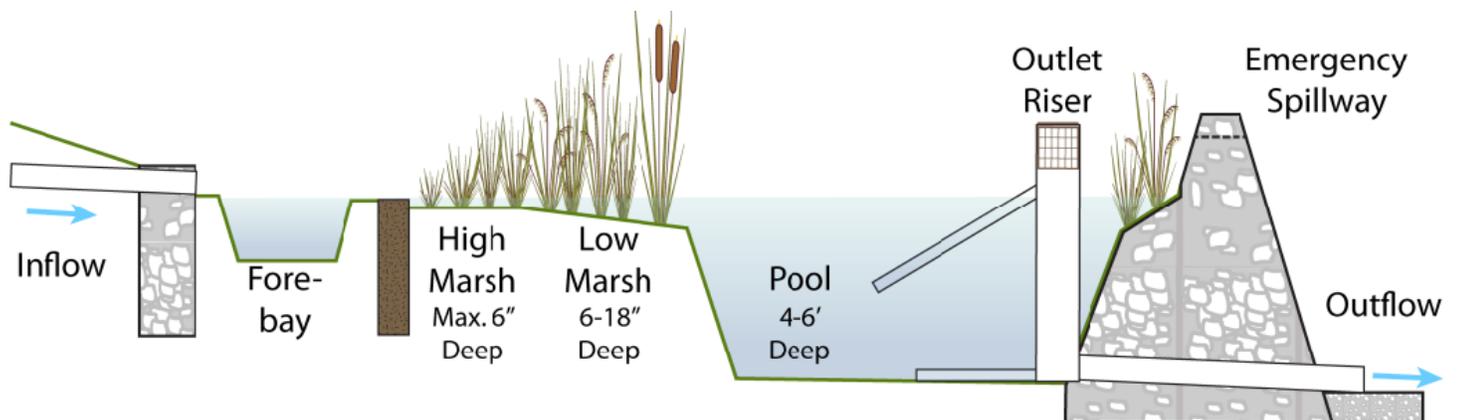
Troubleshooting Issues

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Embankment erosion.	Concentrated runoff and/or poor turf management.	Address immediately to avoid further erosion. Stabilize the eroded areas by 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.
Excessive algae growth.	Can indicate excessive nutrients from fertilizer and/or pet waste. Can cause noxious odors, clogged outfalls, and increased pond sedimentation.	Reduce nutrients into pond—pick up pet waste, reduce lawn fertilizer use. Add aquatic plants to pond shoreline. Contact appropriate authority.

Recommended timeframes for routine maintenance

Structures, inlets, and piping	Inspect annually and after large storm events.
Accumulated Sediment	— As needed —
Mowing and Trimming	— As needed —
Remove Tree and Woody Vegetation on Banks	— As needed —
Remove Trash and Debris	— As needed —
Erosion Control	— As needed —

Typical Wet Pond Schematic (for illustrative purposes only)



NOTE:
 = Direction of Runoff

Not to Scale