Detention/Retention Drainage Pond Inspection and Maintenance

Storm drainage ponds are part of the overall surface water management system on a site. The purpose is to store water during peak storm events to slow the discharge offsite and contribute to the flood control of a local storm area. There are two basic types of storage: an above ground pond or underground structures of vaults or high-volume pipes. Ponds generally have an “outflow structure” composed of an inlet and a metered outflow structure. Surface ponds are usually planted with vegetation that serves as a pollutant filter of water before being discharged downstream.

If not maintained, storm drainage ponds may accumulate debris that can potentially decrease the storage capacity and disrupt the desired flow rate of water. Improper maintenance of pond plantings can decrease the efficiency of the natural filtering ability of the pond.

Recommended Maintenance

Storm drainage ponds should be inspected and cleaned of accumulated debris on a regular basis. Most storm systems have a “Developer Extension Agreement” manual kept onsite or on file with the local municipality which provides a detailed required maintenance program to be followed.

Care should be taken not to introduce or allow pollutants such as yard waste or chemicals into the surface water pond and influence the downstream ecosystem.

Consult the maintenance manual before doing landscape removal or planting in pond storage areas.

Many ponds are fenced for obvious safety reasons and fencing should be regularly inspected and maintained to minimize risk.
Related Link:

- [www.blr.com/landingpages/shortad.cfm?ad_id=167&source=MKD&effort=2137&gclid=COvUpt7vuqCFQoOQgodVQM3Bg](http://www.blr.com/landingpages/shortad.cfm?ad_id=167&source=MKD&effort=2137&gclid=COvUpt7vuqCFQoOQgodVQM3Bg)

Contact LCEF to find an Architectural Advisory Committee member near you for additional information.

The mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.