

## Ponds need to be inspected & maintained to do their job

### What Homeowner Associations Can Do

- ◆ Contract a surveyor to check that the pond elevations match the originally designed elevations.
- ◆ Contact us if you plan a specific remedy. We offer 2 hours of free consulting. Use the Technical Assistance application form on our website, [www.cooncreekwd.org](http://www.cooncreekwd.org)

### What You Can Do

- ◆ Contact us if you plan chemical treatment.
- ◆ If you fertilize your lawn, make sure to use correct amounts & that it's phosphorus-free (for most cases); the middle number is 0.
- ◆ Don't Mow to the pond edge. A strip of long-rooted vegetation around the pond helps filter out pollutants.
- ◆ Pick up the poo! It is not fertilizer: pet waste adds bacteria and extra nutrients.

Please Don't feed the Algae Monster!

It feeds on Phosphorous from: fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste.



UW-Extension

### Credits

[www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/factsheets/fs\\_stormwater-e.html](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/factsheets/fs_stormwater-e.html)

Coon Creek Watershed District staff

## WATER IQ #5

® 2011



## Coon Creek Watershed District

12301 Central Ave. NE

Suite 100

Blaine, MN 55434

Email: [info@cooncreekwd.org](mailto:info@cooncreekwd.org)

[www.cooncreekwd.org](http://www.cooncreekwd.org)

Tel: 763.755.0975

### Mission

*Managing groundwater and surface water drainage systems to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance, and to protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.*

## Coon Creek Watershed District

### WATER IQ #5

## Stormwater Ponds



Fifth in a Water Information Quest (WIQ) Series by Coon Creek Watershed District

Tel: 763.755.0975

# Stormwater Ponds

## The Myth...



We often think of ponds as pools of clear water sparkling with diamonds of sunlight. Or, an old-time mill pond. Or a “fishin’ hole” or small “swimming hole.” Or, a small lake.

Sometimes a home is sold as “on a lake” or “wildlife pond” when actually it is on a stormwater pond. In fact, most ponds in modern residential areas have been built to retain pollutants or prevent flooding.

Why?

Stormwater, from rain or melting snow, flushes debris and contaminants from driveways, roads, parking lots, sidewalks, rooftops, lawns, and other surfaces. Stormwater can contain sediment, nutrients, bacteria, oil and grease, trace metals, and organic pollution such as pesticides. In nature, this water mostly filters into the soil with little runoff.

Human development has altered some of these natural water flows, leading to issues like flooding or pollution.

## ...The Reality



Simply, a stormwater system is a tool for managing the runoff from rainfall and snowmelt. Stormwater systems, like natural ponds or wetlands, help control flooding by slowing down and absorbing rainwater before it reaches waterways. They also help filter out nutrients and sediments collected by stormwater before pollutants can reach our waterways.

**Stormwater ponds are designed to retain pollutants and control flooding. These ponds are not constructed for recreational use.**

Ponds are of many designs and functions. Sometimes aquatic plants in the pond help keep and filter soil and also take up nutrients from stormwater runoff.

Ponds are subject to algal blooms. Often, the blooms are a result of phosphorous coming from pet waste and excess fertilizer from nearby yards.

## Good News

These ponds can look ugly because of the algal blooms yet are “doing their job” for clean water and flood prevention. Herbicide can make things worse.

# Types of Stormwater Ponds

You can't tell the type of pond by its looks; only by its design plans.

**Rate Control** ponds are designed to prevent flooding by controlling the amount and rate of stormwater flow into drainage systems:

- stormwater retention
- stormwater detention
- infiltration

**Water Quality** ponds are designed to keep pollutants such as sediment & nutrients from entering drainage system.

**Many ponds are designed for both Rate Control and Water Quality.**

**Excavated** ponds are usually dug by a landowner (for livestock, wildlife, sand)

**Mitigation Areas** (may or may not have open water) replace any wetland acres, functions, or values lost to development, and have special legal standing.

