GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Best Management Practice
BMPs are used to control stormwater volume and improve water quality. The most common BMPs are stormwater ponds.

Dam
Any artificial barrier, which impounds or diverts water. It typically is built with compacted soil or concrete.

Filter Pipe
Perforated metal half-round pipe placed in front of orifices on the OCS with the #4 filter stone around it.

Filter Stone
Type 3 rip-rap in the forebay and #4 stone at the OCS; filters sediment, debris, and other solids before stormwater is released to the receiving stream.

Forebay
A sediment forebay is designed to remove incoming sediment from the stormwater flow prior to dispersal in a larger permanent pool. Usually a barrier of rip rap surrounds the forebay.

Outlet Control Structure (OCS)
The structure through which the water leaves the BMP. Typically this is a riser pipe, or box, with various outlet openings at different elevations.

Water Quality and Channel Protection Orifice
These are some of the various outlet openings in the OCS. These orifices should be protected from clogging, usually with a trash rack.

Did You Know?

- Gwinnett County is responsible for inspecting over 5,000 BMPs
- By some estimates, over half of all BMPs fail within the first five years due to lack of maintenance.
- BMPs slow the release of runoff from impervious surfaces so that pre-development flow conditions are maintained in the receiving stream
- Some pollutants can be “filtered” when runoff drains through a properly maintained BMP
- BMPs that are properly maintained and function as designed may qualify for a Stormwater Utility Fee credit. Call 678.376.7193 and select option 4 for more info

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Gwinnett

GWINNETT WATER RESOURCES

OWNER’S GUIDE TO DENTENTION POND MAINTENANCE

Everyone lives downstream

Gwinnett

How stormwater detention ponds help prevent pollution

In recent years, the urbanization of watersheds has had serious impact on area waterways, especially during high stormwater volume. Concrete driveways and asphalt parking lots are impervious surfaces that alter drainage patterns, which can result in localized flooding. These impervious surfaces also allow for increased nonpoint source pollution such as automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides, and fertilizers that may collect on pavement to wash into local streams and lakes.

Stormwater detention ponds detain that extra volume of stormwater, and everything that may collect in it, and slow down the release into local streams. This slowing of the runoff also allows some pollutants to settle out and be captured in the ponds.

Schedule of Maintenance

In order for a BMP to function as designed, it must be properly maintained as described by a maintenance agreement. Frequent maintenance and inspection will ensure that potential problems are found early and that solutions can be effective both for the pond and your budget!

Regular Maintenance

- Tree and shrub removal from dam and pond embankments
- Mow grasses in the pond every two months
- Consider "no mow zones" for beneficial plants (not on dams)
- Clear all access easements to a width of 8 feet

Storm Inspection

- After any major rain event
- Remove trash and debris
- Check orifices in the OCS

Periodic Maintenance

- Filter stone replacement
  - #4 stone around OCS
  - Type 3 rip-rap in the forebay
- Sediment removal (every five years)
  - Forebays—so that rip rap wall and inlet pipe are not holding sediment
  - A Volume Survey and Certification may help determine if sediment removal from pond is necessary

Preventative Measures

- Signage
  - No dumping: including trash, grass clippings, and yard debris
  - Water quality awareness
- A copy of design plans for BMP
  - As-built, final plat, site plans
  - For use as reference in case of damage to the BMP