

Stormwater Pond 2024 Summer Checklist

Do you have a stormwater pond on your property?

If so, you're not alone. In Maryland alone, there are approximately 18,000 wet stormwater ponds covering nearly 200,000 acres.¹



Your stormwater pond plays a crucial role in protecting your property from flooding and filtering runoff water from your parking lots and roofs before it reaches vital waterways. To ensure it functions effectively, regular maintenance and attention are essential.

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Stormwater Ponds

Stormwater ponds, also known as wet ponds, retention ponds, detention ponds, catchment basins, retention basins, detention basins, and stormwater basins, are like superheroes for your property. They capture and treat runoff water that isn't absorbed into the ground after a heavy rain.



Let's take a trip back in time, to when your property was just a natural landscape without hundreds of parking spaces or thousands of square feet of roof. Back then, rain would fall on the lush vegetation and soak into the ground, which would naturally filter the water before it reached watersheds.

But now, with all that pavement and other non-porous surfaces, things have changed. When it rains, water hits these surfaces, picks up speed, and gathers all sorts of pollutants like trash, oils, heavy metals, chemicals, bacteria, and other nasty stuff. This polluted water then rushes off to the nearest waterway.

When stormwater isn't controlled, several serious issues can arise (more than we can list here):

Localized Flooding - If there is no discernable path for water runoff, it collects in dangerous volumes that can cause damage to your property, disruption to your business, and potential loss of life.

Water Pollution - As water travels across surfaces it picks up pollutants that may be on your property. It then transports them to rivers, lakes, creeks, and other bodies of water - eventually making its way to the Chesapeake Bay, one of the largest and most sensitive estuaries in the United States. These contaminants can kill plants, poison wildlife, and disrupt ecosystems.

Soil Erosion - When stormwater runs across flat surfaces without significant vegetation, it picks up speed and quickly rolls off impermeable surfaces. This can lead to rapid soil erosion. It can also remove nutrient-rich topsoil, preventing vegetation from growing in impacted areas. On top of that, eroded soil can compromise the integrity of roads, parking lots, and buildings, which could be extremely costly to repair.



Legal Issues & Fines - In the mid-Atlantic region, states and counties uphold some of the most thorough stormwater regulations in the nation, particularly due to the Bay's proximity. From the EPA down to local authorities, inspectors diligently monitor to ensure proper inspection and routine management of stormwater ponds. Neglecting your stormwater best management practices could result in a notice of violation (NOV), civil fines, and potential public health and safety violations.

As someone overseeing properties or facilities, keeping an eye on your stormwater pond and crafting a solid stormwater management plan is part and parcel of your job (and if you need a hand, iSTORMWATER's got your back).

Some days, it might just mean a quick stroll around the pond, especially after a good downpour, to catch any red flags. But when it comes to the nitty-gritty structural stuff, like checking control structures, that's where you'll want the expertise of certified professionals. Getting into those areas requires specific training, certification, and permits. For those tasks, reaching out to a trusted stormwater management outfit like iSTORMWATER is your best bet.



2024 Summer Checklist

Stormwater ponds serve as reservoirs that retain a consistent water level year-round. They collect stormwater and gradually release it over several days, allowing the pond to return to its usual depth. These wet ponds play a crucial role in treating incoming stormwater runoff, as they enable pollutants to settle while permitting clean water to flow through an outlet.

You'll commonly find these best management practices (BMPs) implemented in larger developments where ample land space is available for this stormwater management system.

Summer marks a peak maintenance period for stormwater ponds. Without the proper tools and training, maintaining them can become both time-consuming and costly. Moreover, neglecting maintenance can potentially exacerbate issues rather than resolve them.

This checklist serves as a reminder for property managers to schedule pond maintenance, budget for necessary service and upkeep expenses, and proactively safeguard their system, their property, and the environment.

AFTER EVERY SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL EVENT More than 1" in 24 hours

- Remove litter and debris that may obstruct the pond's inlets or outlets
- Look for any new points of erosion and contact iSTORMWATER



TASKS TO COMPLETE EVERY SUMMER

- Work with iSTORMWATER to determine next year's maintenance budget for your property so you are ready for approval in the fall
- Schedule inspections to find and remove any invasive plant species that may take over your pond's vegetation
- Check that your pond's required signage is visible
- Check that any required gating is in working order
- Verify that the pond, including spillways, is accessible for inspectors and maintenance crews
- Schedule regular mowing around the pond (should be completed at least 1x month during the summer months)
- Schedule fall cleanup
- Ensure your property has pet waste receptacles (if applicable)
- Clear any debris and trash from your property's impermeable surfaces (parking lots, roads, walkways)

Important Note

These are suggested tasks to help you stay a step ahead of your property management obligations. Of course, please refer to your state and county's official stormwater management requirements and procedures for maintaining best management practices (BMPs) or [contact iSTORMWATER with any questions.](#)



Let iSTORMWATER Handle Your Summer Pond Maintenance

With nearly two decades of expertise in stormwater management, the iSTORMWATER team understands the intricacies involved in maintaining a stormwater pond and the frustration that comes along with receiving a notice of violation (NOV) from local authorities.

Our inspection and maintenance agreements streamline the process of caring for your stormwater ponds, making it hassle-free for you.

iSTORMWATER can help you:

- Plan and prepare for essential repairs and maintenance.
- Avoid notices of violation.
- Prolong the lifespan of your stormwater system.
- Safeguard your property against potential damage.
- Protect the health of your local waterways.
- Avoid the burden of substantial corrective expenses.

Ready to discuss your stormwater system or map out your summer maintenance plan?

The iSTORMWATER team is here and eager to delve into your system's specifics, local regulations, and strategies for budgeting routine maintenance and mandatory inspections. Reach out, and let's start the conversation.

[Schedule Free Consultation](#)

