

Inspect Your Detention Pond

To Catch Problems Early

When was the last time you took a walk through your neighborhood's detention pond? If it's been a while, you may want to consider a quick inspection of the area.

Detention ponds are not just a landscape feature but serve a practical purpose: temporarily detain stormwater runoff to protect water quality in streams and lakes by slowing down the flow and allowing sediment to settle out. Maintenance is periodically required to ensure the detention pond functions as designed. The best way to determine if any maintenance needs to be performed is to do an inspection.

Inspect your detention pond every three or four months and after every large rain event. At this rate you can identify small issues before they develop into big problems. An inspection of your detention pond should involve visiting all the major structures. The inlet headwall is the pipe(s) putting water into the pond; the outlet control structure (OCS) is the structure releasing water from the pond; the access easement is the pathway that allows vehicles to reach the OCS; the dam is the embankment that holds the water back. Each of these features should be visited and checked for cracks, depressions, holes, tree growth, or any other sign of failure. In order to reach these structures, you may have to maintain a path through and around the detention pond, but by inspecting the pond often this path will become fairly established over time.

For more information about detention pond inspections and maintenance, visit www.gwinnettH2O.com. Click on "What We Do," then "Stormwater."

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