

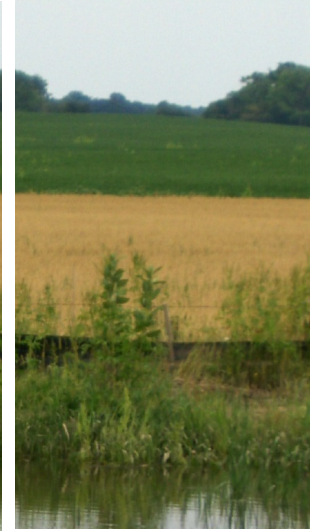


**HUTCHINSON**

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING  
Municipal Stormwater Program

(320)234-5682

# Stormwater Pond Property Owner Fact Sheet



## Maximizing a pond's function & aesthetic value

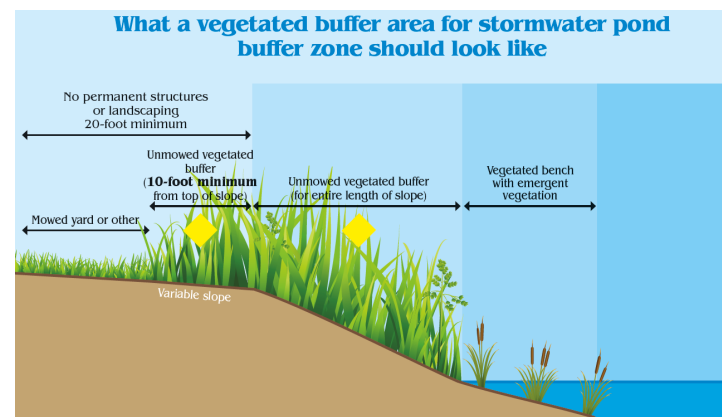
City staff make strategic decisions on how to protect and preserve wetlands, woodlands and manage stormwater to provide sustainable city services with minimal environmental impact. City staff works with developers and property owners to design stormwater ponds, so they protect the city against floods and filter pollutants before water flows to the river. Tools used by the City to ensure proper operation include:

- \* Maintaining the integrity of buffer zones around ponds
- \* Maintenance of weeds and woody vegetation to ensure proper pond function and accessibility
- \* Removal of sediment to maintain pond treatment capacity
- \* Remove trash, litter and debris from pond and buffer area
- \* Enforce stormwater regulations including detection and elimination of prohibited discharges to storm water system

## Why do we have stormwater ponds

Stormwater ponds are part of the city's infrastructure. The primary function of a stormwater retention pond is stormwater storage and sedimentation to help increase water quality. Stormwater ponds are like any other infrastructure in the city. They have aesthetic value; however, stormwater ponds are not for fishing or swimming because they can contain contaminants. They are operated in a specific manner and have periodic maintenance done to ensure they function properly.

Stormwater retention ponds located in neighborhoods are part of a broad, useful citywide stormwater treatment system. Rainwater runoff is transported to the South Fork Crow River through catch basins located along roadways, traveling through the retention pond to remove sediment and then on to the river.



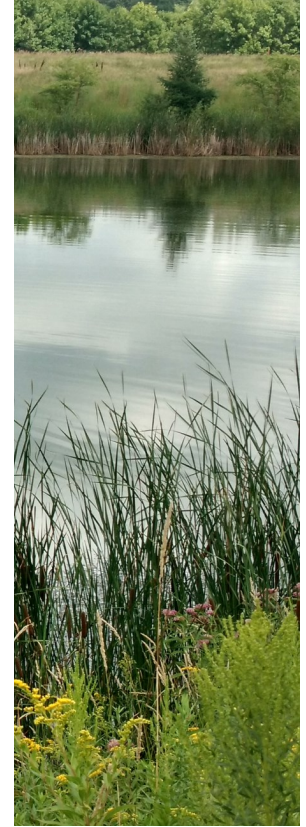




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## Why is a stormwater pond buffer zone important?

Buffer zones surrounding a stormwater pond's perimeter are important because they help ensure stormwater ponds operate properly. It is important these areas are not disturbed by unauthorized landscaping and are kept free of permanent structures. Since roots of native grasses can grow more than eight feet deep, they are more effective at preventing erosion than turf grass, which has roots that barely reach 6" deep.

## How You Can Help Be Part of the Solution

Everyone can help protect Minnesota's rivers and lakes. A little effort goes a long way to protect water resources. Some ways to help:

- ◆ Follow recommended guidelines for fertilizer application because nutrient loads to ponds from lawns can be significant. Phosphorus and nitrogen directly stimulate algae growth in the pond.
- ◆ Remove animal waste in the area because it's high in phosphorus and nitrogen.
- ◆ Sweep grass clippings away from streets, sidewalks and driveways. Compost clippings to prevent grass from entering the stormwater system. Grass clippings can fill up the pond and add nutrients for algae growth, which can be unsightly and may cause offensive odors in natural waterways.
- ◆ Wash vehicles on a grassy area and reduce amount of soap used. Using biodegradable soap or low phosphorus soap when washing vehicles is best.
- ◆ Store landscaping and construction material on a level surface to prevent material from washing into the storm drain system or plugging the storm sewer.
- ◆ A small amount of motor oil or antifreeze can have a major impact on small water bodies. Clean up spilled liquids and material from auto repairs.

Working together and understanding the purpose for stormwater ponds helps protect the environment and benefits your neighborhood.

For questions, or more information, contact  
City of Hutchinson staff at 320.234.5682

[www.hutchinsonmn.gov](http://www.hutchinsonmn.gov)