

STORM (RETENTION) POND FACT SHEET

WHAT IS A STORM POND?



A storm pond (also known as a retention pond) is a storm water facility that holds a set amount of water year-round, with additional storage capacity for large rainfall events.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?



These ponds help capture runoff from storm events and help prevent localized flooding by quickly draining the storm sewer system and retaining until the system volume equalizes.

HOW DO STORM PONDS IMPACT THE RED RIVER?



In addition to flood prevention, the ponds also help treat the water before discharging it to the Red River, by settling out sediment and pollutants.

WHAT STEPS DOES THE CITY UNDERTAKE TO MAINTAIN THESE PONDS?



The City of Fargo maintains retention ponds. The City also uses a water dye treatment, to try and control algae growth and odor. This process reduces penetrating sunlight which helps reduce the growth.

WHY DO THE PONDS TURN GREEN?



Storm water retention ponds are designed to capture pollutants and sediment before releasing the water. This process also captures nutrients from fertilizers (common in new developments where newly planted lawns are being fertilized).

WHY IS ALGAE PRESENT?



The runoff from fertilized lawns contains high levels of potassium, nitrogen and phosphorus. When these nutrients reach the pond they create an algae bloom, which uses all available oxygen in the water and can lead to odors and thick green matting of algae.

CAN RESIDENTS SWIM, BOAT OR ICE SKATE ON CITY PONDS?



No, for your safety The City does not allow these type of activities.

CAN I BUILD/CONSTRUCT SOMETHING AT THE EDGE OF THE POND?



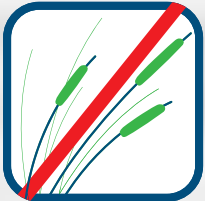
No. Typically all ponds have water storage easements around them, this ensures the pond can hold all the water needed to reduce possible neighborhood flooding impacts. This is referred to the high water mark and is typically several feet higher than the normal pool level.

CAN I USE THE STORM WATER POND WATER FOR IRRIGATION?



No, The City does not allow residents to use the water for irrigation pond levels are designed for performance and typically controlled by an outlet structure.

CAN I REMOVE VEGETATION AROUND THE POND EDGE?



No. Not only do the plants improve water quality by filtering pollutants, they also provide critical slope protection by reducing the impacts from wave action erosion.

WHAT IS THE WATER QUALITY OF A STORM POND?



Property owners should be aware the water collected in these ponds can contain harmful pollutants carried by runoff from driveways, streets and lawns.

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Storm Pond
Facilities*