

Western New York Stormwater Coalition

A partnership to protect water quality

A number of communities, government agencies and consultants in Western New York have joined together to develop a stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. The goal of the Coalition is to utilize regional collaboration to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution.

The Coalition meets monthly to work collectively on developing and implementing a stormwater management program that complies with New York State's Phase II Stormwater regulations.



WNY Stormwater Coalition

Erie County

Alden (V)
Alden (T)
Amherst (T)
Angola (V)
Aurora (T)
Blasdell (V)
Boston (T)
Buffalo Sewer Authority
Cheektowaga (T)
Clarence (T)
Depew (V)
East Aurora (V)
Eden (T)
Elma (T)
Evans (T)
Grand Island (T)
Hamburg (V)
Hamburg (T)
Kenmore (V)
Lackawanna (C)
Lancaster (V)
Lancaster (T)
Orchard Park (V)
Orchard Park (T)
Sloan (V)
Tonawanda (C)
Tonawanda (T)
West Seneca (T)
Williamsville (V)

Niagara County

Cambria (T)
Lewiston (V)
Lewiston (T)
Lockport (T)
Niagara Falls Water Board
North Tonawanda (C)
Pendleton (T)
Porter (T)
Wheatfield (T)
Youngstown (V)

Agencies and Consultants

Erie County DEP/DPW/DSM
Niagara County DPW
SUNY at Buffalo
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
Erie & Niagara County Soil & Water
Conservation Districts
Clark Patterson Lee
GHD Engineering
JM Davidson Engineering
Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc.
Watts Engineering
Wendel
Wm. Schutt & Associates

C: City V: Village T: Town



Western New York Stormwater Coalition
c/o Erie County DEP
Room 1077
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202



WNY Stormwater Coalition

Understanding Your Neighborhood Stormwater Retention Pond



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c/o Erie County DEP
Room 1077
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 858-6370
www.erie.gov/stormwater



For information on your local stormwater program, contact: _____

How to Keep Your Neighborhood Pond Working Properly

Stormwater ponds collect and store stormwater runoff from residential and commercial developments. Rain and melted snow from driveways, streets, rooftops, parking lots and lawns flow into storm sewers that drain into the stormwater pond.

A stormwater pond is designed to help prevent flooding and remove pollutants from stormwater before it drains into streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands.

Inspection and maintenance are necessary for ponds to function properly. Trash and debris will clog outflow structures if allowed to accumulate. Sediment buildup and excessive plant growth can create pooling and interfere with proper flow of water through the pond. Regular maintenance can prevent small problems from becoming big, costly problems. Keep a watchful eye on your neighborhood stormwater pond.

Responsibility for inspection and maintenance of stormwater ponds varies among and even within municipalities. Good stewardship means learning how to keep your neighborhood stormwater pond functional, healthy and attractive.

Under no circumstance should stormwater ponds be used to dispose of waste materials. Doing so could result in very costly clean up and possible legal action.

A well-maintained pond is attractive and serves its purposes well: to prevent flooding and protect water quality.

For more information on stormwater management ponds, contact your Homeowner's Association or local municipality.

Common Stormwater Problems & What to Do About Them

NUISANCE WATERFOWL

Mowing to the water's edge provides ideal habitat for geese. Open water with easy shoreline access and visibility will attract geese. A vegetated buffer, 3'-5' from the edge of the pond provides a natural barrier that geese and other waterfowl will avoid. Fencing at the water's edge is also an effective deterrent.

Feeding waterfowl, geese and ducks, will create a nuisance problem. Word spreads fast when the food is free and easy to come by and as creatures of habit, waterfowl will establish residency. Never feed waterfowl—congregations will destroy shoreline vegetation; their droppings may increase nutrient loadings and fecal coliform levels; and, it is both unhealthy and unnatural for the waterfowl to be fed by humans.

Maintaining a 3' - 5' vegetated buffer zone leading to the water's edge functions as a pollutant filter, trapping eroded soil and lawn chemicals that may be transported by surface runoff.

EXCESSIVE ALGAE GROWTH

Fertilizers, grass clippings and animal waste contain nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous that increase algae growth.

Use less fertilizer, apply less often or eliminate use completely. Application of any lawn chemical should be according to manufacturer's directions.

Never dispose grass clippings or yard waste in your stormwater pond.

Properly dispose of pet waste in a timely manner and implement strategies to control waterfowl activity.

Wet ponds treat and filter stormwater runoff through settling and through nutrient uptake by plants and other aquatic organisms.

EROSION & SILTATION

Water flowing over exposed soil will erode the banks of the pond and carry soil into the water causing siltation and water pollution.

Shoreline vegetation should be protected and disturbed as little as possible. Exposed soil should be seeded and mulched or planted with vegetation.

On steep slopes, bank stabilization with fieldstone or rip rap may be necessary. Contact your municipality for approval.

STORMWATER POLLUTION

Numerous storm drains merge to discharge into a stormwater pond. A variety of pollutants from roads, driveways and lawns are transported to those storm drains. Pollutants such as automotive fluids, lawn care chemicals, soap (driveway car washing!) and litter are washed off surfaces with rain and snowmelt and into the storm drains.

Clean streets (and driveways) = clean water! Fix oil and other automotive fluid leaks promptly. Contact your local Household Hazardous Waste Program for proper disposal of chemicals, lawn care products & automotive fluids. NEVER dump in a storm drain! And wash your car on the grass, that way the soapy water will not flow into a storm drain.

Keep your neighborhood litter free! Organize a clean up day & don't forget to include the pond area!