

## **STORMWATER POND MAINTENANCE**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Who is responsible for maintaining the stormwater pond by my house?**

According to the Delaware Sediment and Stormwater Regulations, it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the stormwater management facility onsite. If the stormwater facility is located on a jointly owned parcel, such as in a housing development, it would then be the homeowner association's (or civic association's) responsibility for maintaining that stormwater facility. For a guidance document on how to maintain stormwater management ponds, please go to: <http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Honeowners.htm>

#### **Is there a “vegetation requirement” according to State of Delaware Sediment and Stormwater regulations?**

No. There is currently no requirement relating to vegetative specifications according to State of Delaware Regulations; however, please consult both local ordinances and county codes in your area to see if there may be a requirement elsewhere. Be sure that the pond is properly functioning, and has no cracked or broken structural components. For a pond maintenance inspection, please consult your local conservation district. Be sure to also remove potentially harmful vegetation (such as trees) from embankments, and remove debris and vegetation from outlet structures. For more information on properly maintaining stormwater management facilities, including information on vegetative maintenance, please go to <http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Honeowners.htm>.

#### **My stormwater pond is being inundated with algae and aquatic vegetation. How do I get rid of it? Can I do it myself?**

First, encourage community residents to decrease the use of lawn fertilizers throughout the community. Work with your lawn care company to be sure that grass clippings are not dumped into the pond. This will reduce nutrients into the system. Algae removal is optional (not required).

We recommend that you hire a professional who has both a commercial applicator's license and aquatic pesticide applicator's license through the Delaware Department of Agriculture. For a list of professionals who perform these types of services, in addition to other helpful technical information, please go to: <http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Honeowners.htm>.

There has been recent debate over interpretation of the Delaware Pesticide Law regarding homeowners applying their own chemicals to their stormwater ponds within their own developments.

If the homeowner's association is in agreement that they should chemically treat the pond themselves, since it is basically their *own land* (commonly owned), they can do it

themselves if it is a pesticide that is *not* a restricted use pesticide. If they choose to do this on property other than their own (outside of their development), such as their neighboring development's stormwater pond, they will then need to be certified (Aquatic Pesticide Applicator) through the DE Department of Agriculture. All pesticides that are restricted use will say in large letters "restricted use pesticide" at the top of the label.

For the law in entirety, please see the Delaware Code, or call the Delaware Department of Agriculture for specific questions about restricted use pesticides.

### **There is algae in my pond. Can I get a permit for grass carp to be put into the pond to help with the problem?**

No. Grass carp are not effective at controlling algae. In addition, stormwater ponds are designed to overflow in extreme rain events; therefore, the use of grass carp are not permitted for use in stormwater ponds. To obtain more information, please consult the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife's Grass Carp Policy at

<http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/fw/warmwater/grasscarppolicy.pdf>

### **I would like to know more about stormwater pond maintenance and would like to obtain technical resources.**

The following link contains a list of resources that you should first consult, including list of contractors who perform stormwater pond maintenance.

<http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Honeowners.htm>.

### **How can I get a fountain in my pond?**

We recommend consulting a professional to perform this service, since there are many varying models of aeration systems on the market. For a list of professionals who will perform this type of service, please consult the following website:

<http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Honeowners.htm>.