

CITY OF WEST FARGO

RETENTION POND

FACT SHEET



DEFINITION

A retention pond is a storm water pond that holds a set amount of water year round.



WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?

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




RIVER IMPACT

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


CITY MAINTENANCE

The City of West Fargo maintains aerators or "bubblers" in select retention ponds. The city also uses natural treatment options to try and control the algae.




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 contractors are fertilizing newly planted lawns).



WHY IS THERE ALGAE?

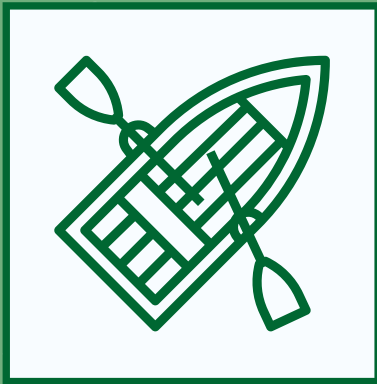
The runoff from those new lawns contains high levels of potassium, nitrogen and phosphorus. When these nutrients reach the pond they create an algae bloom, which uses all available oxygen in the water and can lead to odors and thick green matting of algae.



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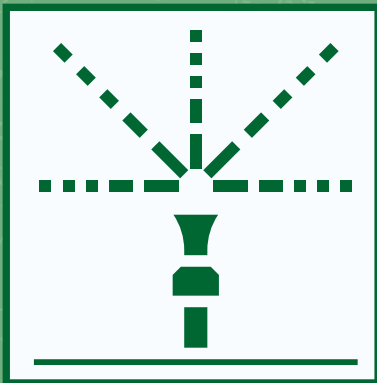
RETENTION POND

FAQ



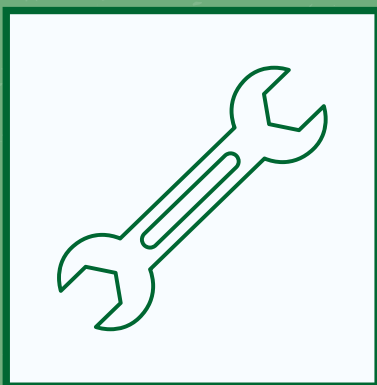
Can residents swim or boat in the ponds?

No the city does not allow swimming or boating on storm water ponds.



Can I use the storm water pond water for irrigation?

Yes, the city does allow residents to use the water for irrigation IF they own the property to the water's edge, just be aware the water can contain harmful pollutants, which may kill grass.



Can I build/construct something along the edge of the pond?

No, all ponds have water storage easements around them, this ensure the pond can hold all the water needed to prevent flooding. This is referred to the high water mark and is typically five feet higher than the normal level.