

Stormwater Management

3 THINGS EVERY SITE MANAGER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT STORMWATER PONDS





Shoreline plants serve as a “buffer zone” around a stormwater pond, helping to absorb pollution and nutrients before they enter the water, and help stabilize the shoreline to prevent erosion.

YOUR JOB AS A SITE MANAGER IS A CHALLENGING ONE.

In Florida though, it’s even tougher when you add in responsibility for managing the stormwater retention system in your community. Residents will recognize these as ponds in their neighborhoods, but they may not fully understand the vital water management role these water bodies serve beyond their aesthetic appeal. Engineered to mimic the function of a natural system, these retention ponds exist to provide flood control, as well as collect, store and filter run-off water before it is slowly released into the outflow system.

Managing water quality and the appearance of stormwater ponds requires close attention. These water bodies are constantly stressed by what is flowing into the pond: run-off water generated by rain events, lawn watering, car washing and other water sources. As the water runs off a home’s gutters or the street, down storm drains and into the stormwater pond, it collects a variety of pollutants: dirt and grime, pet waste, fertilizer from lawn treatments, grass clippings, motor oil and detergents, among others. And before long, the impact of these pollutants becomes pretty visible in your stormwater pond — showing up as increased, unwanted plant and algae growth.



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Here are three things to know about managing stormwater systems in your communities:

1 KNOW WHAT STORMWATER PONDS “SHOULD” LOOK LIKE



It’s really common for residents to take note of the aesthetics of their community stormwater pond, and comment on the presence of emergent aquatic plants along the shoreline. Algae is certainly always noticed too.

But what may not be well-understood is that shoreline plants serve as a “buffer zone” around a stormwater pond, helping to absorb pollution and nutrients before they enter the water, and help stabilize the shoreline to prevent erosion. They are supposed to be there! Even algae, in the right amounts, has its place in a balanced water system.

2 CONTROL WHAT GOES IN...

The good news is, there is a lot your community can do to limit the stressors on your stormwater systems that cause excessive algae and aquatic plant growth. Limiting what ends up in your pond has a huge impact on the water’s visual appearance and overall water quality.

Here are some easy things you can encourage your residents to do that will lesson the load on your stormwater systems. The best part is, these don’t cost you or your residents a dime:



Go easy on using pesticides and herbicides



Use fertilizer sparingly



Prevent grass clippings from going in the water



Prevent pet waste from entering the water body



Avoid putting any oils, detergents, leaves and lawn clippings down the storm drain

3 IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES

Managing the inputs in a community’s stormwater system will do more than just improve the appeal of the water body for your own residents. It also contributes to the quality of the downstream water resources that accept the stormwater after it leaves the retention system. So residents need to understand and appreciate the purpose of these water bodies as part of the entire aquatic ecosystem.

Spread the word within your community. It is really important to not overload stormwater ponds with nutrients that run off from the surrounding properties. Too many nutrients will trigger a spike in weeds and algae that no one will enjoy seeing, but more importantly, it can be a major contributor to harmful algal blooms (HABs) that threaten the health and well being of our communities at large.



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The health and quality of our water is directly linked the well-being of people, pets and the planet. When you chose Clarke Aquatic Services as your aquatic management partner, you are choosing to Give Water LifeSM and support the safety, livability and comfort of our communities.



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