

Who is Responsible?

Like most structures, a detention basin may not function properly or it may fail prematurely if not properly maintained.

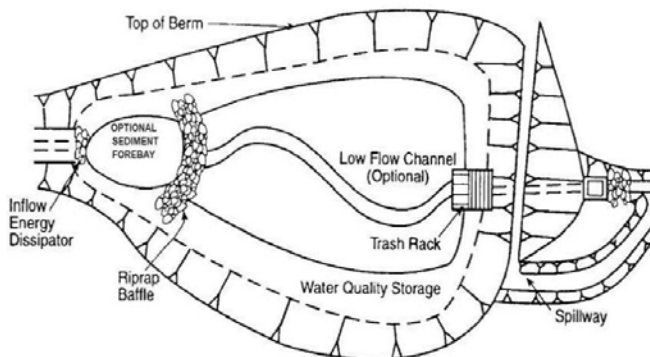
Once a detention basin fails, it is often *very expensive* to correct.

Many detention basins are **located on private property**, including parcels of land owned and maintained by a homeowners association (HOA).

Local governments **do not have** the **authority** to maintain components of the storm sewer system on private property, including detention basins. Rather, these are the responsibility of HOA or the lot owner to maintain.

This Brochure will help answer questions and provide you with instructions for basin maintenance activities.

Basin Components:



Routine Maintenance Will:

- **prolong** the life of your detention basin
- **improve** its appearance
- **prevent** flooding and property damage
- **enhance** local streams and lakes

Special thanks to John McManus and Clermont County's Soil & Water Conservation District for providing the information in this guide.

For More Information, Please Contact:

Hamilton County
Planning and Development
<https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov>
513.946.4550

Hamilton County
Soil and Water Conservation District
<https://www.hcswcd.org>
513.772.7645



Anderson Township
<https://www.andersontownship.org>
513.688.8400

Maintaining Your Detention Basin

A Brochure for Private Owners in Anderson Township

Your detention basin is a storm water *best management practice* (BMP) designed to temporarily capture and hold storm water runoff during periods of heavy rain.

This basin will slowly release this flow over a period of one or two days and minimize flooding and streambank erosion problems downstream.

Detention Basin Maintenance

In general, a maintenance program should contain the following components:

- Maintain access for inspection and maintenance
- Vegetation management
- Regular inspections
- Debris and litter control
- Embankment and outlet stabilization
- Sediment removal

Access

Access to the basin is provided by a Private Drainage Easement on the Subdivision Record Plat. Plantings and other structures should not be placed in the easement to ensure proper access is available for **regular inspection**, maintenance, and heavy equipment that may be needed for dredging or repairs.

Manage

Vegetation should be maintained throughout the basin to **prevent erosion**, including the basin bottom, side slopes, and both sides of the dam. Turf grass is the most common ground-cover, although other vegetation, such as deep-rooted native plants, can be used to improve basin performance by allowing more water to infiltrate (soak into the soil).

Inspect

Monthly

- Inlet/outlet pipes and spillway for debris, sediment accumulation or other blockages

Early Spring & Fall

- Side slopes for barren or eroded areas
- Clear basin of debris, tree limbs, dead vegetation, etc.
- Rip rap inspection, replace as needed

Annually

- Inlet/outlet pipes for structural integrity
- Integrity of Dam
- Invasive plant species
- Safety-related structures (e.g., fences, gates) for defects
- Sediment accumulation: remove excess when six inches of sediment has accumulated in the basin, or approximately every 5-10 years

Control

Do not place **yard waste** in the detention pond, drainage ways, or in the storm drains located in the streets. Yard waste and litter can block basin inlet and outlet pipes. This material also releases excess nutrients as it decomposes. Nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, are among the most significant pollutants of concern in local lakes and streams. Do not dump any materials, such as motor oil, or unnecessary amounts of pesticides,

herbicides, or fertilizers into storm drains. These products will wash from the basin into local streams and rivers. In addition, these chemicals can be harmful to the wildlife, such as bees, frogs, toads, fish, and dragonflies.

Stabilize

A **structural failure** can occur in the basin embankment or outlet structure, over-topping of the dam resulting from vegetation management issues (such as trees and shrubs growing on the dam), burrowing animals, and mower or equipment damage to name a few.

Remove

Excess **silt and sediment** can collect over time and reduce the storage capacity of the detention basin. In addition, sediment tends to collect around the outlet structure and may block the outlet.

