

Common Misconceptions

Myth	Reality
Cattails and other vegetation make ponds unattractive and contribute to their deterioration	Vegetation stabilizes shorelines, reduces nutrient loads and provides wildlife habitat
Healthy ponds host large populations of ducks and geese	Ponds with high populations of waterfowl typically lack a vegetative buffer and have higher levels of nutrients
Dumping trash and used oil down storm drains will go to the water treatment plant	Storm drains empty into the nearest waterbody—your neighborhood stream or pond
Stormwater ponds are eyesores that require constant maintenance	Stormwater ponds are designed to clean stormwater and decrease costly downstream flooding and stream bank erosion
Stormwater ponds are breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes	Mosquitoes breed in pools of stagnant water like clogged roof gutter, flowerpots or bird baths. Correctly designed stormwater ponds are designed to minimize stagnant water.



GOOD:

A stormwater management pond with natural vegetation that reduces waterfowl and helps to filter nutrients from stormwater. Stormwater ponds are not intended for recreational activities such as fishing, swimming and feeding waterfowl.



BAD:

This stormwater management pond has excessive algae growth due to increased fertilizer use by nearby residents and grass clippings decomposing in the water. This pond also lacks a vegetative buffer.

Resources

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District
www.monroecountyswcd.org
 585-753-7380

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
 (585) 224-2466

Canada Geese Issues:
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7003.html

Aquatic Invasive Plants:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>

NYS Nutrient Runoff Law:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html>

Stocking Grass Carp:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7973.html>

The Pond Guidebook
 By Jim Oschterski, Bryan Swistock and Rebecca Schneider
 Available for purchase at Soil & Water Conservation District offices

The Water Education Collaborative (WEC)
 Tips to improve water quality
<http://www.h2ohero.org>

Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County
<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/dec-stormwater-coalition>



Living Next to Stormwater Management Ponds



What are Stormwater Management Ponds?

Stormwater ponds are bodies of water in developed areas that collect and store stormwater runoff. These ponds improve water quality and control water quantity by reducing pollution and preventing downstream flooding. Stormwater ponds can be attractive features depending on how they are managed.

Here is what YOU can do to help your neighborhood stormwater pond!