

Swales and Catch Basins

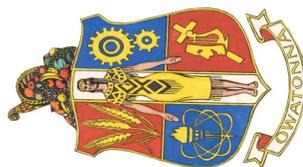
Areas between properties that look like ditches are grassed waterways or swales that are designed to safely convey stormwater. Catch basins along the road are also designed to remove water from the street. Grassed swales, catch basins, and other structures need to be maintained to function properly.

What you can do:

- Keep the swale mowed
- Remove any collected debris or litter from drains and swale
- Make sure to seed down any bare areas
- DO NOT block the swale or drainage path with fences, buildings, landscaping, or other obstructions



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Engineering Department
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Is There a Pond in Your Neighborhood?



"Clean H₂Owatonna" is the City of Owatonna's Stormwater Management initiative to improve the quality of our water resources and protect them from harmful pollutants.

How Does a Stormwater Pond Work?

First it receives rainwater and melted snow from neighborhood driveways, streets, rooftops, and lawns. This water collects pollutants before flowing into the storm system and to the pond.

Then it improves water quality through physical and biological processes. The shape of the pond and plants such as cattails, slow the flow of water and allow particles containing pollutants to settle out. The plants also provide filtration and nutrient removal. Ponds also serve a vital role in reducing flow rates, preventing flooding and erosion downstream.

To function properly your pond needs help!



How to Keep Your Pond Working Properly

- Only mow grass and other vegetation within 10 feet of the pond once per year and never less than 6 inches
- Remove clippings near the pond after mowing to prevent nutrients from entering the pond
- NEVER throw yard waste in or near the pond
- Talk a walk around the pond and remove trash and debris
- Avoid using fertilizer and other chemicals on your lawn, this causes algae blooms
- Organize a routine neighbor clean up

Remember: Ponds collect pollutants, do not let children or pets enter!

When to Report Problems

If you see a pond with:

- Blocked inlets and outlets
- Excessive build-up of trash, sediment, or vegetation
- Damaged structures and pipes
- Erosion and gullies along the embankments
- Erosion downstream of the pond
- Rodents such as beaver, muskrat, or opossum
- Potential illicit discharge or source of pollution (abnormal colors, odors, etc.)

Contact your homeowners association or the City of Owatonna to determine maintenance responsibility.

City of Owatonna

Engineering Department

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