



Stormwater Pollution Prevention in Moorhead MN

STRATEGIES AND TIPS

Help keep our water clean

- Use fertilizers and pesticides that are phosphorus free
- Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the street. Dispose of yard waste at one of the City's yard waste drop off locations
- Wash your vehicle on your lawn or use a commercial car wash
- Dispose of unwanted chemicals at the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility

Benefits to natural landscaping

- Prevents bank erosion and slumping
- Provides habitat for micro-organisms that remove nutrients and some toxic compounds dissolved in the water
- Provides habitat for dragon flies and other insects that eat mosquitoes
- Improves appearance of the pond

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollution entering waterways.

ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN

Contact us for more information concerning stormwater issues:

218.299.5386

stormwater@ci.moorhead.mn.us
www.cityofmoorhead.com



WHAT IS A STORM SEWER SYSTEM?

The primary purpose of the storm sewer system is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Pollutants such as automotive fluids, pet waste and trash get carried to the storm drains by runoff and discharge directly into ponds, ditches and the Red River without treatment. Within the City, there are state owned ponds, privately owned ponds and City owned ponds. The City owned ponds are maintained by Park and Wastewater maintenance staff.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF A POND?

Stormwater ponds are an important part of Moorhead's storm sewer system. Stormwater ponds capture and store runoff from a drainage area that once was a natural environment and is now covered by buildings, driveways and parking lots.

WHAT CAUSES ALGAE GROWTH IN PONDS?

Excessive nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous that come from fertilizers, grass clippings and pet waste.

HOW DOES THE CITY MAINTAIN AND MANAGE THE PONDS AND DITCHES?

During the growing season, ponds and ditches on City property are mowed about every 10-14 days, depending on weather. In the early spring and after rain events when bank slopes are wet, it is not stable to mow. Please also note to help prevent erosion, grass around the ponds is not maintained at the same height as a residential lawn.

THINK ABOUT NATURAL PLANTINGS!

Would you and your neighborhoods like natural plantings around your neighborhood pond? Contact us if you are interested. Native plants along the banks improve the quality of the pond and the deep roots help prevent erosion. It requires less maintenance and can be an attractive amenity.

GET INVOLVED: ADOPT-A-POND!

Team up with neighbors to improve the look and water quality of the pond in your backyard/neighborhood. The City will supply and pick up trash bags, along with other debris removed from around the pond. The Adopt-a-Pond application is available at www.cityofmoorhead.com, search "stormwater".

