

Stormwater University Glossary, Version 1  
 City of Ferndale – Stormwater Pond Presentation

Algal mat	A layer of filamentous algae.
As built drawings	Blueprint or construction drawings, usually provided and signed by an engineer.
Best Management Practices	Maintenance procedures that prevent or reduce pollution to water, often abbreviated "BMPs."
Biological processes	When used in relation to stormwater, the processes involving uptake and storage of nutrients by plants and microorganisms.
Bioswale	A landscape feature designed to remove silt or pollution from stormwater.
Catch basin	A reservoir or basin for collecting stormwater runoff.
Check dam	A small, temporary, or permanent dam constructed across a drainage ditch.
Chemical processes	When used in relation to stormwater, a group of processes involving sorption, which immobilize contaminants onto soil particles.
Clean Water Act	The laws that govern and protect water quality in the United States.
Cleanout gate	A component of the control structure, which can be used to restrict flow or shut it off.
Cleanout gate rod	A metal rod or chain that can be maneuvered to control the cleanout gate.
Construction activity	Clearing, grading, excavation, and any other activity which disturbs the surface of the land.
Control structure	The large manhole structure and its components that function to control the flow rate of water leaving the outlet of a sediment pond.
Detention pond	A structure designed to contain stormwater, and let the water out over time.
Dissolved oxygen	The amount of oxygen present in water.
Dry detention pond	A pond designed to contain stormwater that quickly infiltrates into the ground after a storm event.
Easement	When used in relation to stormwater, a set-aside area with various restrictions to provide open access for inspection or repair of a drainage feature.
Emergency spillway	Conveyance feature of a detention pond designed to discharge excess stormwater flows to maintain the integrity of the pond.
Erosion	The process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action of water.
Filamentous algae	Single algae cells that form long visible chains, threats, or mats in water.
Forebay	The first segment of a two-stage stormwater pond.
Habitat	The natural environment in which an organism lives.
Hardscape	Masonry work, woodwork and other non-plant elements on a landscape.
Hydrology	The study of the properties and effects of water on the surface of the earth.
Impervious area	An area that is incapable of penetration by water.
Inlet	The point where stormwater enters the pond.
Invasive species	Those species of insects, animals, plants and pathogens, which grow uncontrolled in certain habitats in which they are usually not native and have little to no predators.
Liner	A geotextile fabric installed in a pond to prevent water from seeping down into the ground.
North Sound Baykeeper	Your advocate and educator for marine water quality in northern Puget Sound
NPDES	An acronym for "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System," a stormwater permitting system
Nutrients	Chemicals that are used as food for plants and bacteria, such as nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P)
Orifice	A controlled opening on the outlet structure through which stormwater is discharged from the pond.
Orifice plate	The component of the control structure which contains hole or holes sized to restrict flow to a predetermined release rate (flow) based on the design.
Outlet	The structure where water exits a stormwater pond, usually a pipe.
Overflow pipe	A pipe built into the berm of the pond where water can exit during times of high

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	water flow.
Phosphorus	The chemical element with the symbol P - acts as a nutrient and fertilizer.
Phytoplankton	Small or microscopic free-floating algae and plants. These become visible when they are numerous.
Piping	An engineering term used for water that moves through a channel or narrow hole.
Regional pond	A pond designed to capture stormwater runoff from a larger, regional area.
Retention Pond	A type of sediment pond that is designed to retain a resident pool of storm water. Stormwater is usually discharged via evaporation, infiltration or from a spillway, and not via a control structure and outlet.
Rip rap	When used in relation to stormwater, rock material typically used to stabilize conveyance channels.
Rock blanket	A ground covering surface consisting of a layer of rocks that function to stabilize an outlet structure or pipe.
Sediment	Particulate matter composed mainly of soil and organic detritus that can be transported by water and eventually deposited.
Settling	An engineering term for land that settles downward, or sinks.
Sloughing	An engineering term for land that settles or moves sideways.
Spillway	A structure that allows a controlled release of water to a downstream area.
State waters	Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, underground waters, salt waters, and all other surface waters and water courses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.
Stormwater	That portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground because of the presence of impervious surfaces.
Stormwater runoff	Runoff that occurs as a result of a rain or storm event hitting an impervious surface.
Trash rack	A structural feature of the outlet that filters stormwater by trapping debris before runoff is discharged.
Waterkeeper Alliance	An environmental organization founded in 1999 that advocates for rivers, bays, and shorelines.
Weir	A small overflow-type dam commonly used to raise the water level of a pond or stream.
Wet detention pond	A pond designed to have a remaining permanent pool of water after a storm event.
Wetland	A lowland area such as a marsh or swamp that is saturated with moisture most of the year.