

Fact Sheet: Stormwater Basins



Stormwater basins are an integral feature that allows for storm water throughout Warren County to be managed in developed areas. There are two classifications of basins: detention and retention. A detention stormwater basin is a man-made depression that collects and temporarily holds storm water runoff. A retention basin, a man-made pond, holds water throughout the year but also has extra storage space that fills with water after a storm.



A detention stormwater basin in a neighborhood.

Stormwater Basins are important because they:

- collect and detain storm water,
- help to settle out and hold sediment,
- protect local creeks, streams and lakes,
- and help to reduce the potential for flooding.

Inform Yourself!

- **If you live in a residential community, your Home Owners Association (HOA) dues may help pay for basin maintenance.**
- **If you don't have an HOA, look for information on your recorded plat and deeds found on the Warren County Auditor's website - www.wcauditor.org**

Basin Maintenance:

A consistent maintenance program is the best way to ensure that a stormwater basin continues to perform its intended water quality functions. A program should contain:

- Access for inspection & maintenance
- Regular inspections
- Debris & litter control
- Vegetation management
- Embankment & outlet stabilization
- Sediment removal

Learn more about water protecting practices you can do at home.

Visit the District's Website at <https://www.warrenswcd.com>

Retention Basins vs. Detention Basins At a Glance

Retention Basins are a man-made pond that holds water throughout the year, but also has extra storage space that fills with water after a storm. The extra water is slowly released and helps to minimize downstream flooding and streambank erosion. Retention basins also help with removing sediments and other potential pollutants from storm water runoff.



An example of a well-maintained retention pond



An example of a detention basin.

Detention Basins are a man-made dry depression that collects and temporarily holds storm water runoff. Detention basins help to slow the rate of runoff and also improves the quality of storm water leaving the basin. Water that collects in a properly functioning dry basin will typically recede within 48-72 hours.



What does Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) do about Storm Water Basins?

In a partnership with the Warren County Engineer's Office, WCSWCD inspects stormwater basins and their features on a regular basis.

The storm water control features are part of a system of roads with catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels and storm drains that work in conjunction to manage and convey the storm water of the County.

WCSWCD performs annual inspections of all retention and detention basins found throughout the County. These inspections are typically done in the warmer months.

In the instance a basin poses a potential maintenance concern, WCSWCD will check plans and consult the engineer's office if we feel as if a basin might have deficiencies. A letter is also sent to the basin owner that includes maintenance items or repairs that should be done in order to restore full functionality of the basin.

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