

## Why should residents help?

Stormwater BMPs require periodic maintenance and should be checked regularly to determine whether maintenance is needed. Many Stormwater BMPs were constructed on private property owned by a Home Owner's Association or an individual property owner. Maintenance activities, such as trash removal, stabilizing eroded areas, removing excessive vegetation, and dredging sediment deposits will help increase property values. They will also maintain the important function that the facilities play in protecting downstream waters.

## Where can I get more information?

Visit the City of Elgin's website at

[www.cityofelgin.org](http://www.cityofelgin.org) for fact sheets on:

- What You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution
- Stormwater BMP Maintenance and Inspection

Content adapted from Center for Watershed Protection  
Adopt-A-Pond Program Document (2005).



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# Stormwater Best Management Practices Guide





## Why are BMPs Important?

When land is developed, impervious surfaces such as rooftops, roads, parking lots, and driveways are created. These impervious surfaces generate stormwater runoff because they do not allow rain to soak into the ground. Impervious surfaces also accumulate pollutants deposited from the atmosphere, leaked from vehicles, or wind-blown in from adjacent areas. During storm events, pollutants quickly wash off of impervious surfaces and are rapidly delivered to downstream waters. Some common pollutants found in urban stormwater runoff include sediment, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), heavy metals, oil and grease. Stormwater BMPs are inserted into the landscape to improve water quality and reduce the flooding associated with increased impervious cover and surface runoff.

### What is a Stormwater BMP?

A Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) is a practice used to manage the impacts of stormwater runoff. Some Stormwater BMPs occur naturally, such as wetlands, woods and other natural vegetation. Other Stormwater BMPs are man-made structures, such as detention ponds, swales, rain gardens, or permeable pavement. But Stormwater BMPs can also be activities. For example, removing litter from a drainageway and limiting the application of chemicals to your lawn are also Stormwater BMPs.



### Water Quality

Stormwater BMPs can reduce pollutants in three primary ways: through detaining the water and allowing pollutants to settle out, by filtering the water, and by plant uptake and biological activity.

### Flood Control

Some Stormwater BMPs, such as ponds, can reduce the flood hazard associated with large storms by storing excess runoff for a period of time. They are designed to release the stormwater slowly in order to reduce downstream flooding.

