

Detention Ponds

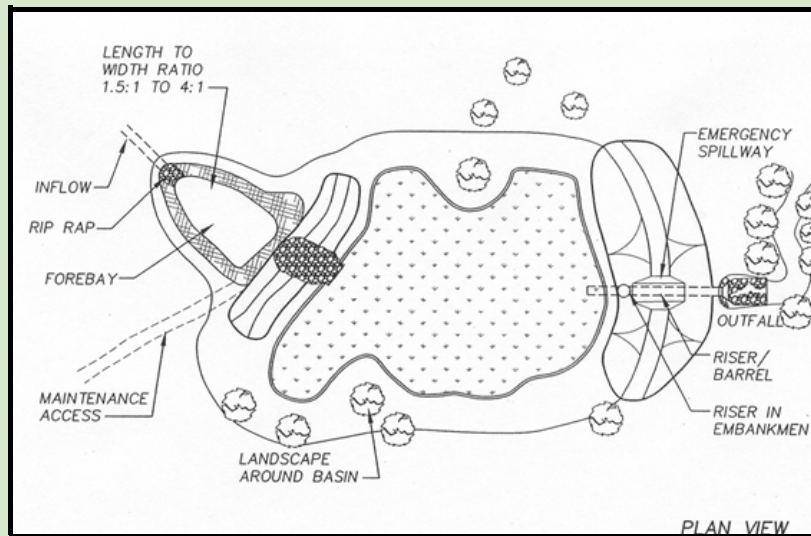
What is a detention pond?

A detention pond (a.k.a. detention basin) is an element of the storm water sewer system infrastructure which works to slow the flow of water downstream from the pond. Water enters the pond from a storm sewer or neighboring property then exits the pond at a controlled rate through an outlet structure.

The **inlet**, typically a flared end section, is the storm sewer from which water enters the pond.



Detention basins may be **wet** or **dry**.



Water exits through the outlet structure then is **discharged downstream**.

Traveling over a **spillway** (which may be concrete, geoweb, or overland) is how water exits the pond in the event of a major storm.



Water exits at a controlled rate through an **outlet structure**. Outlet structures may have low-flow and high-flow outlets for different water levels and overflow structures for major storm events. Outlet structures come in many shapes and sizes as they are uniquely designed for each detention pond.



overflow structure



What is the role of the Kent County Drain Commission (KCDC)?

The KCDC is responsible for ensuring the capacity of the detention basin is appropriate, that water can effectively flow through the pond, and that all supporting structures are in good condition. The cost of maintaining the pond is paid as needed by you and other property owners in its drainage district which contributes runoff water to the stormwater drainage system.

What are the responsibilities of a property owner?

- Keep pollutants out of the pond. Pollutants such as fertilizer, pet waste, litter, sediment, grass clippings, and oil and grease from cars should not be deposited in, around, and upstream of the pond. All water moving through the pond collects these pollutants then is ultimately deposited untreated in rivers and streams leading to Lake Michigan.
- Keep the pond structures visible and free of obstructions that may block water entry and exit.
- Keep trees and plants away from the pond structures. Landscape features, especially trees, have root systems that can damage and destroy the structures and the underground storm sewer system. Avoid planting trees within a 15-foot radius around a structure or within 15 feet on either side of a storm sewer line.
- Do not fill the pond. Filling the pond with debris, personal property, or yard waste such as grass clippings will impede the basin's ability to detain the appropriate amount of water in the event of a storm.
- Keep the pond easement free and clear of all permanent structures. You may see your complete building restrictions in regard to the pond easement through the Kent County Register of Deeds webpage.



Learn more and connect with the Kent County Drain Commission at <https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/DrainCommissioner>