

## Snohomish Conservation District

**DETENTION POND  
MAINTENANCE**

Detention and retention ponds serve important ecological and societal functions by receiving and treating stormwater.

**If You Live in a Homeowner Association...**

...you're responsible for taking care of your neighborhood detention pond! In order for it to work correctly, it needs regular maintenance.

**MAINTENANCE IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!****PLANTS**

- Mow regularly to maintain 3" grass height.
- Remove noxious weeds (see other side).
- Plant low-maintenance grass where you see bare soil.
- Cut back branches and shrubs that hang over the pond.
- Remove small trees from pond banks.
- Reduce/eliminate use of herbicides near pond.

**ANIMALS**

- Remove debris, birdfeeders, and fallen fruit that might attract animals.
- Remove logs or piles of leaves that animals may use for housing.
- Repair holes or gaps in fences that could allow wildlife in.
- Reduce/eliminate use of pesticides near pond.

**STRUCTURES**

- Keep drainage structures, spillways, and outlets clear of debris and trash.
- Inspect structures and pipes annually.

**What is a DETENTION POND?**

This bowled section of land is a stormwater treatment system that can help prevent flooding and polluted stormwater runoff from entering the Puget Sound.

**LEARN MORE**

Visit [snohomishcd.org/detention-ponds-granite-falls](https://snohomishcd.org/detention-ponds-granite-falls).



## WHEN TO CALL IN THE EXPERTS

Maintaining a stormwater pond has some risks and may result in injury if not done properly. Please work with your local municipal stormwater authority and a licensed contractor to carry out maintenance!

### A Professional Might...

- Rototill compost soil mix into ruts.
- Check that embankments are stable.
- Mow steep banks and trim high/large branches that reach into the pond.
- Remove animals that have burrowed or nested within the pond.

## NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

The noxious weeds pictured to the right might look pretty, but they definitely aren't friendly! These plants are aggressive, competitive, and some of them are toxic. They should be removed immediately!

- At a minimum weeds should be trimmed and/or mowed before they go to seed and continue to spread.
- Remove new trees to prevent future problems.
- Weed control improves soil stability; reduces soil erosion & minimizes downstream pollution.

For the full list of Washington noxious weeds, visit [nwcb.wa.gov/printable-noxious-weed-list](http://nwcb.wa.gov/printable-noxious-weed-list).

## WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

If you have any questions, concerns or comments about detention pond maintenance, please contact your city and HOA.

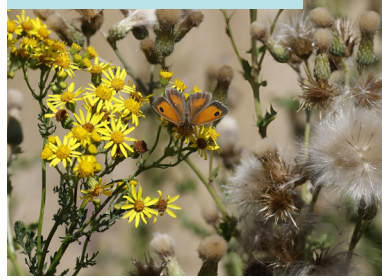
### City of Granite Falls Public Works

Charles R. White, Operations Supervisor  
[charles.white@ci.granite-falls.wa.us](mailto:charles.white@ci.granite-falls.wa.us) or 360-691-6441

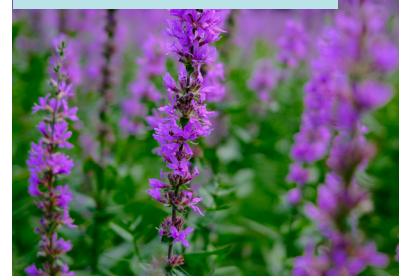
### Snohomish Conservation District

Community Conservation Team  
[ccteam@snohomishcd.org](mailto:ccteam@snohomishcd.org) or 425-535-0530

Tansy Ragwort



Purple Loosestrife



Milk Thistle



Brown Knapweed



Gorse



Knotweed



Blackberry



Giant Hogweed



Scotch Broom



Reed Canary Grass



## MEET YOUR CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation districts partner with residents to steward land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. To learn more about how your local conservation district can work with you, visit our website at [snohomishcd.org](http://snohomishcd.org).