

# WHAT IS A DETENTION POND?

You're looking at it! This bowled section of land is a helpful stormwater treatment system that helps prevent flooding and polluted stormwater runoff from entering the Puget Sound. Most of the stormwater treatment system is underground, but the detention pond is a very important part of the system.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Some of the pollutants in stormwater are like superfoods for plants, but in a natural stream or wetland, they can cause problems by encouraging too much plant growth. By capturing stormwater, fewer of these nutrients enter natural streams and wetlands and instead go to plants in the detention pond. Bugs and microorganisms living in the mud then help cleanse the stormwater of pollutants.

## WHO MAINTAINS THESE PONDS?

As a member of your Homeowners Association (HOA), you do! In order for the detention pond to work correctly, it needs regular maintenance. The City will regularly inspect public and private drainage facilities like this to determine whether it meets performance standards.

## WHY MAINTENANCE IS IMPORTANT

### Plants

Plant control, including weeding, mowing, and other maintenance, can ensure that the pond works as intended. Poor management can result in clogged pipes, stagnant water, and overgrowth.

### Control Structures

Control structures are manholes at the pond outlet. They control how fast water leaves the pond, so that nearby creeks do not get flooded during a storm. Control structures need to be maintained by an expert, to make sure the complicated pipe system inside does not become plugged.

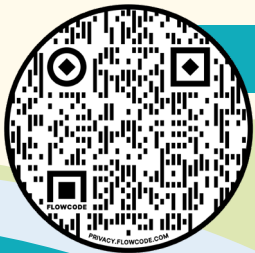
### Soils

Detention pond soils are designed to clean and soak in water. If the soils are not cared for, they can become clogged with pollutants.

## MAINTENANCE HAZARDS

Maintaining a stormwater pond has significant 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 in a safe and effective manner.

To know more about what's going on in your neighborhood conservation efforts, visit [ILoveLake.org](http://ILoveLake.org)



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OF LAKE STEVENS:

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