

WHAT IS A STORM POND?

THE TOWN OF OKOTOKS

Storm Ponds are a vital and necessary part of Okotoks' storm water system. These ponds collect storm water and runoff, trapping sediment and other materials, helping to return cleaner water to our rivers and streams. A storm pond is not a natural pond, but an engineered public utility designed to manage stormwater and contaminants.

- 1 Water enters the storm pond from various sources (catch basins, ground water, rain and snow).
- 2 Sand, dirt, silt and other sediments settle in the storm pond.
- 3 Cleaner water leaves the storm pond, returning to our rivers and streams.



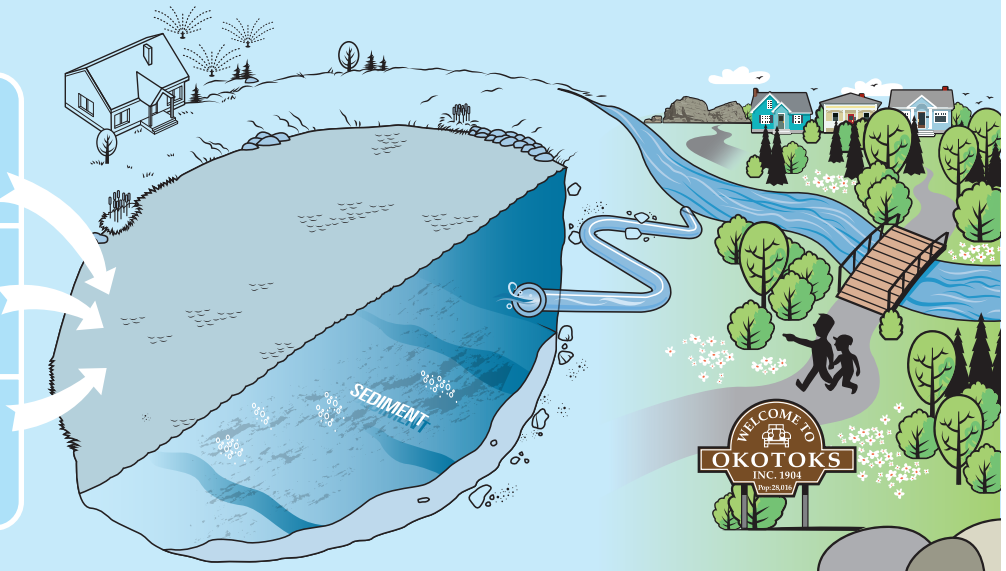
Washing cars in the driveway causes oil, soap, gasoline and debris enter our storm system- and is against water bylaw.



Over fertilizing lawns causes chemicals to run in to our storm system, leading to nutrient overload and algae.



Construction sites often have sand, dirt and sediment washing into our storm system.



What's In a Storm Pond



Runoff Water
from storms, car washing, lawn watering



Fertilizers/Chemicals
lawn fertilizers and other chemicals



Vehicle Waste
gas, oil, washer fluids, etc.



Bacteria
good and bad bacteria



Sand, Silt, Dirt and Gravel
sediment is deposited here, keeping our rivers cleaner and healthy



Salt
from winter road maintenance



Animal Waste
domesticated and wild animal waste



Debris/Garbage
litter and natural waste (leaves, etc.)

Storm Pond Safety



- 1 Stay out of the water (swimming, wading, boating) water contact of any kind is dangerous and strictly prohibited.
- 2 Stay off the ice in winter. The run-off of road salts into the pond makes the ice thinner and weaker and the water levels and flows change rapidly, making skating or other activities extremely dangerous and strictly prohibited.
- 3 Keep your pets away from and out of storm ponds for their health and safety.

Help Protect the Sheep River

- Sweep your driveway with a broom, don't use water.
- Pick up after pets, keep waste out of our waterways.
- Dispose of hazardous products properly, okotoks.ca/recycling.
- Wash cars at a car wash, keep soap/chemicals out of storm ponds.
- Don't dump your fish or other aquatic pets into the storm ponds.

- Drain downspouts onto your lawn, not into streets or alleys.
- Limit fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Get a rain barrel, save \$ on watering plants.

okotoks.ca/stormponds

