



SHAWNEE
K A N S A S

Neighborhood Watershed

Keeping Our Ponds Happy and Healthy

Every summer, we are reminded of how much we enjoy our ponds, lakes, and waterways as we find ways to beat the summer heat. As the summer comes to a close, it is important to make plans to provide needed maintenance to our ponds to keep them healthy for summers to come.

How to Extend the Life of Your Pond

Water sources need to be maintained for optimum performance and lifespan. But as part of the normal aging process, all ponds eventually begin to fill in with sediment, and experience more and more problems with water quality, aquatic weed control and reduced recreational use.

Keep these points in mind as best management practices to extend the life of your pond:

- Maintain a grass buffer strip around the pond to keep soil, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants from washing in. The wider the grass strip the better, but a minimum would be 10 - 15 feet. Maintain grass at 4 - 6 inches of height to improve its filtering ability.
- Surrounding homeowners should mow often. Let the clippings fall back onto the grass. Don't sweep or blow them into the street. Grass clippings return nutrients back into your soil, reducing the need for fertilizer.
- Sweep granular fertilizers and pesticides off driveways and sidewalks back onto the lawn to prevent washing into the storm drain, creek or pond. Fertilizer can cause algae blooms, which rob ponds and streams of oxygen. Lack of oxygen can cause fish kills.
- Prevent soil erosion. Mulch or seed bare soil. Soil particles carry pollutants into the streams.
- Clean up pet waste, which is a source of bacteria in our streams.
- Only rain down the drain!





Stormwater Management
11110 Johnson Drive
Shawnee, KS 66203

Go GREEN and \$ave Money!

Soil testing and sound fertilizer recommendations help reduce the potential for excessive nutrient applications and runoff. Soil tests in Johnson County can be processed through the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension office to residents FREE OF CHARGE! Call (913) 715-7000 for more information!



Save the Date!

The 10th Annual Healthy Yards Expo is scheduled for **April 6, 2019** at the Shawnee Civic Centre! Follow us on [Facebook.com/cityofshawnee](https://www.facebook.com/cityofshawnee) to find out more details!



Contact the Stormwater Division to report an illicit discharge or stormwater related issue at 742-6230 or stormwater@cityofshawnee.org