

City Council Item

August 10, 2026



Item	Stormwater Pond Maintenance Review	
File No.	N/A	Item No: A.3
Agenda Section	<u>5:30 P.M. - WORK SESSION</u>	
Prepared By	Charlie Howley, Director of Public Works/City Engineer	
Reviewed By	Laurie Hokkanen	

<u>SUGGESTED ACTION</u> N/A - Discussion only	
Motion Type	N/A
Strategic Priority	Asset Management

SUMMARY

Staff will give an overview of the city's stormwater pond maintenance program. A plan was prepared back in 2020, and staff has prepared a summary report of that plan along with a look ahead of the 2026 maintenance project. Both reports are attached for reference.

BACKGROUND

The city has approximately 300 stormwater ponds. A 'pond' tends to be a generic term for all stormwater management Best Management Practices (BMP's), but in reality, a wet pond is only one type of BMP, albeit the most common type. Other types of BMP's include filtration basins, infiltration basins, biofiltration (rain gardens), and structural practices such as underground chambers, filters, hydrodynamic separators, skimmers, and sump structures.

In October of 2020, the City Council adopted a program for the annual maintenance of the city's stormwater ponds, which was focused on wet ponds.

Stormwater BMP maintenance is a requirement of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, regulated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). In order to stay compliant with the MS4 permit, 20% of the BMP's must be inspected annually, and all BMP's should be inspected every 5 years. The permit explicitly states that 'Based on inspection findings, the permittee shall determine if repair, replacement, or maintenance measures are necessary in order to ensure the structural integrity, proper function, and treatment effectiveness of structural stormwater BMPs. Necessary maintenance shall be completed as soon as possible to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to stormwater.

City Staff uses our asset management software OpenGov (fka Cartegraph) to perform the annual inspections and other maintenance documentation. For the actual 'pond maintenance' work, engineering staff via a hired consultant scope a project and develop a set of plans for bidding, with the work performed by a hired contractor typically during the winter months. The other maintenance needs for the stormwater system are generally self-performed by public works staff.

DISCUSSION

N/A

BUDGET

The annual pond maintenance program is included in the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), see attached. The other maintenance expenses are part of the annual operational budget.

The CIP budget for the 2026 pond maintenance project is \$536k and is programmed for 3% annual inflation each year.

The funding for the maintenance program comes from the Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

[Annual Stormwater Improvement Project Budget Justification 2026](#)

[CIP - Annual Stormwater Maintenance](#)

[2020 Stormwater Pond Management Plan](#)