



Radisson Community's Retention Ponds

Radisson has several retention ponds located throughout the community. Their main purpose is a functional one. Retention ponds, known legally as stormwater retention facilities, are bodies of water in residential and commercial developments (man-made or natural) that collect and store stormwater runoff. These ponds control water quantity and mitigate flooding. They also help to reduce pollution and control water quality. They are owned by the Radisson Community Association (RCA) and are considered Radisson Common Property.

Many of our retention ponds are located adjacent to the walking trails, providing an attractive amenity to the community. However, the appearance of a retention pond can and does change dependent on weather conditions and other factors. While many contributing factors are out of our control, the RCA takes proactive measures, when practicable, to maintain the appearance of the ponds. For instance, we add dye to darken the water and inhibit plant growth. We stock our ponds with grass eating carp and manually remove plant material when applicable. We also work with an engineer and a professional water quality expert who do onsite testing and make recommendations for treatment changes, if needed.

Is there something I can do to help the ponds look better?

YES!! Residents' cooperation is essential to help us keep our ponds functional and looking the best they can.

Most of the issues that plague the appearance of a retention pond are caused by nutrient overload. Excessive nutrients create unsightly algae and bacteria growth, as well as increase plant material.

You can help by adhering to the following tips!

A few simple steps:

- Do not feed the waterfowl. Their waste adds to the nutrient overload in the pond and they can spread disease and algae from pond to pond.
- Dispose of yard waste properly. DO NOT place yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, etc) into the ponds. This increases nutrient level, which promotes algae and plant growth.
- Keep yard waste out of stormwater drains. Decomposing leaves and vegetation allowed into storm drains create an excess of nutrients and bacteria that quickly overwhelm the stormwater ponds.
- Dispose of pet waste properly. Waste left along the pathway system and common areas will run off into stormwater ponds.
- Reconsider the need to fertilize. NYS law (see sidebar) prohibits using lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus unless establishing a new lawn, or a soil test shows that your lawn does not have enough phosphorus. Fines may be incurred for violations.
- Appreciate the benefit of buffers. Plants along the shoreline slow runoff, absorb excess nutrients and reduce soil erosion.

Additional Resources

Radisson Stormwater Retention Facility Policy
www.radissoncommunity.org/Community Pages/Facilities, Parks & Common Property

Central New York Stormwater Coalition has additional information and homeowner tips at
www.cnyrpdb.org/stormwater

Department of Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov

New York State Nutrient Run Off Law
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html



PLEASE...

Do not treat the ponds directly in any way! It could interfere with ongoing treatments and inadvertently harm the water and wildlife. Radisson Common property is to be maintained by RCA personnel only.