

Retention/Stormwater Ponds



Retention ponds:

Primary function is to provide a level of flood mitigation for the surrounding community

Secondary role of stormwater ponds is to allow for water quality improvement before runoff moves downstream.

Fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, and gas/oil are examples pollutants that SP's can help mitigate

According to UF/IFAS there are over 95,000 Stormwater ponds in Florida



Retention pond zones

Buffer Zone - Buffer zones, also known as no mow zones, are vegetated lands that are either natural or created to separate a waterbody from negative human impacts. Trees, native grasses and bushes are good choices in Buffer Zones

Littoral Zone - The shallow down-sloping shelf of a lake or pond is commonly referred to as the lake's "littoral zone". The zone is an area where the water meets the land. Plants here support wildlife such as wading birds, turtles and crabs

Offshore Zone - Underwater portion not part of Littoral Zone



Best practice examples

Plant trees around the perimeter of a stormwater pond to help shade the area, absorb nutrients and lower the water table

Plant a buffer zone (minimum of ten feet) of low-maintenance plants between your lawn and shoreline to absorb nutrients and provide wildlife habitat

Aquascaping is landscaping in and around your pond. These plants are preferred for your “aquatic garden” as they grow slowly and require little maintenance



Discussion

- What types of things would we want to recommend?
- Incentives for plantings? Existing and new development?
- Review of city owned ponds?
- “No Mow” policy around perimeter for “x” feet?
- Community outreach? Seminars?
- School outreach?
- Annual contest for most biodiverse retention pond?
- Florida Friendly Planting refresher?
- Is it a big enough issue to make an impact
- Adopt a Pond program like Adopt a Street? Or Adopt a Swale?