

Retention Basins

Stormwater Best Management Practices



In the Phoenix area, stormwater runoff does not go to a water treatment plant before entering our recreational or drinking waters. It is transported by drains, streets, curbs, and open channels directly to retention basins and washes. Retention basins can be effective for stormwater pollution removal and flood control, but they can pose risks to public health and safety. After a summer monsoon season, water-filled basins can be inviting places for children to play. Because stormwater is not treated, any pollutants that get picked up by runoff end up in these basins.

What Can I Do?

- Reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- Clean-up all spills—do not wash spills into the street.
- Pick up all pet waste, even from your backyard.
- Throw away all waste and recyclable materials in the appropriate containers.

Did You Know?

Some common stormwater pollutants are pet waste, pesticides/herbicides/ fertilizers, trash/litter, motor oil, and paints/solvents.



The dry climate and the rays from the sun assist to inactivate pollutants, so dry ponds are allowed to be used for soccer fields when they are dry, but remember, retention basins (parks) are not intended for recreational water use!



For additional information or questions, please contact:
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