

**Article 2700
Ponds**

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2701 DEFINITION.

A man-made water impoundment made by construction of a dam or embankment, or by excavating a pit or dugout, greater than ¼ acre in surface area. Used primarily for recreation and fire protection. (Source: NRCS Standard and Specification #378)

This article is not applicable to Detention and Retention Basins used for stormwater management.

2702 STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

The following standards and specifications apply to traditional ponds only. Decorative ponds, commercial ponds, and wetlands require separate zoning regulations.

- a. A pond must be designed by a registered civil engineer or by the Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District to meet the Standards and Specifications of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- b. The Lorain County SWCD will provide technical assistance for pond design to residential and agricultural landowners. Industrial and commercial sites will need to obtain engineering service from private engineers.
- c. Ponds designed by private engineers can be reviewed by the Lorain County SWCD for technical adequacy (at the request of the township).
- d. Minimum size will be one-fourth of an acre in surface area (approximately 100 feet by 110 feet). Minimum depth will be 8 feet in 25-50% of the pond with 3 to 1 side slopes (3 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical rise).
- e. Set back requirements will be a minimum of 50 feet from all property lines and right-of-ways. This is measured from the high water mark of the pond, the outside toe (edge) of the embankment (dam) and the outside edge of the spoil disposal area. None of these three points can be closer than 50 feet to the property line.
- f. The Lorain County SWCD will not design a pond located in a flood plain area, as designated by the FEMA Flood Plain map or local zoning.

- g. On-site and off-site drainage patterns (surface and subsurface) will not be obstructed by pond construction, in compliance with Ohio Drainage Laws. Drainage (ditches, swales, tile, etc.) will be rerouted around the pond and outletted into the original watercourse.
- h. The construction and use of a pond will not result in additional erosion and sedimentation problems either off-site or on-site.
- i. Spoil material will be mounded a minimum top width of four feet and minimum side slopes are 3:1. Maximum heights are to be determined by local zoning.
- j. All ponds will have a spillway system capable of handling stormwater overflow from the pond. Overflow stormwater will be discharged into the natural watercourse.
- k. Ponds used as primary water supply will be a minimum of 50 feet from the septic system leach field. Otherwise ponds will be a minimum of 25 feet from the nearest point of the sanitary system.

2703 PROCEDURES.

The following procedures apply to traditional ponds only. Decorative ponds, commercial ponds, and wetlands require separate zoning regulations.

- a. Ponds will not be discharged so as to affect the leach field of adjacent sanitary systems or raise the ground water so as to render ineffective any sanitary system.
- b. Ponds will be managed and maintained so as not to create nuisance and health hazards. The location of a pond shall not cause a hazard to nearby residents.
- c. The area surrounding the pond shall be appropriately landscaped with grass and trees to aid in surface drainage and minimize erosion.
- d. Liability for the pond is the responsibility of the landowner.
- e. Fines and enforcement for pond violations is the responsibility of the township. The Lorain County SWCD does not issue permits nor is it responsible for enforcement action
- f. The Lorain County SWCD requires a minimum of 60 days prior to construction to conduct investigation, perform surveys, and prepare final drawing of pond.
- g. The landowner is responsible for payment of fees to Lorain County SWCD or other engineers for pond design/layout services.

- h. Public utility requirements must be adhered to regarding both underground and overhead utilities.
- i. Larger ponds and/or dams may be subject to review, approval, and annual inspection by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, under the Ohio Dam Safety Law.

2704 VARIANCES AND EXISTING PONDS.

Request for a variance from Township Zoning Regulations shall be processed by the Township Board of Zoning Appeals. Any reconstruction of an existing pond shall meet all standards, specifications, and zoning requirements as for new ponds.

