

Departmental Policy

Policy Name: Pond and Lake Construction
Approval Authority: Storm Water Management Regulations
Responsible Office: Community Development
Originally Issued: January 19, 2018
Revisions: April 18, 2019

1. **Policy Statement**

This policy should be used by Engineering staff when receiving inquiries or applications for a Land Disturbance Permit, related to the planning and construction of lakes or ponds. These activities may also trigger certain use designations or approvals by the Planning Department including Acceptance of Fill Material, and Borrow Pit (see Section 11.05 of the Zoning Ordinance). Engineered designs will not be required where the following apply: (1) the height of dam and/or earthen embankment will be less than 5 feet, (2) there will be less than 10,000 square feet in potential water surface area, (3) there will be less than 1 acre of associated land disturbance, **and** (4) the pond/lake and associated grading will be outside of any Waterway Natural Area.

2. **Reason for Policy**

This policy is intended to allow the consistent review of applications in compliance with Section 2 of the Storm Water Management Regulations of Williamson County Tennessee. Although the Storm Water Management Regulations exempt agricultural land management activities, the construction of a “farm pond” should still meet the requirements/recommendations in USDA Agriculture Handbook 590 (**Ponds-Planning, Design, Construction**).

3. **Who Should Read Policy**

All Engineering or Planning personnel who may be responsible for approving applications.

4. **Related Documents or Regulations**

The Williamson County Zoning Ordinance, USDA Agriculture Handbook 590, and the Safe Dams Act of 1973.

5. **Contacts**

The Williamson County Engineer
1320 West Main Street, Suite 400
Franklin, TN 37064
Phone: 615-790-5809
Email: Engineering.Dept@williamsoncounty-tn.gov

6. **The Policy**

The creation or modification of a Lake or Pond shall require the following:

- Verification that the structure will not impound an intermittent or perennial stream.

- A grading, erosion prevention, and sediment control plan prepared by a Registered Professional Engineer. The plan must indicate the intent to transport any material onto, or off-of the subject parcel.
- A spillway design by a Registered Professional Engineer showing that post construction peak discharge from the pond does not exceed pre-construction peak discharge through the 100 year design storm. The “point of compliance” for this analysis would usually be the down-stream location at which concentrated flow leaves the subject parcel.
- Geotechnical analysis/design for dams 20 feet high or higher, or impounding 30 acre-feet or more of water.
- A breach analysis if a building or buildings are below and in immediate proximity of the dam or potential flow path.
- Compliance with flood plain management requirements in Article 19 of the Zoning Ordinance.

All supporting documentation will be submitted online as a Land Disturbance Permit application at williamson.idtplans.com.