



Stormwater Infrastructure



Retention ponds (wet) retain stormwater and have a permanent pool of water. Runoff from rain events is stored and treated in the pool through settling and biological mechanisms. Retention ponds provide the same benefits as detention ponds. The only difference is the permanent pool of water.



Detention ponds (dry) are open basins that store stormwater runoff during rain events and slowly release it through an outlet control structure (OCS). These ponds are designed to completely drain within approximately 24-hours of the completion of a storm event and are usually grassy and dry between rain events. They are the most common stormwater pond in Cobb County.



Outlet Control Structures manage the stormwater discharged from detention and retention ponds. In conjunction with stormwater ponds, they are designed to hold stormwater during a rain event and slowly release stormwater runoff over 24 hours. This helps limit the erosive nature of high velocity flows, prevent flooding and provide water quality treatment by detaining water in the pond.



Pedestal Inlet provide drainage into the storm sewer system from overland runoff. They're often found in landscaped areas of residential communities and rise above the surface of the ground. Openings at ground level of a pedestal inlet direct stormwater runoff to the larger system of stormwater infrastructure located underground.

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Manholes are heavy metal or locking plastic lids that seal service entries to the stormwater system. They are also especially useful because they can easily be removed for visual inspections of the system and quickly closed again.



Stormwater Grates provide drainage into the storm sewer system from overland runoff, streets and parking lots. Stormwater grates are versatile enough to be used in many scenarios. They're typically found in low lying areas and drain accumulating water into the larger system of stormwater infrastructure located underground.



Catch Basins provide drainage into the storm sewer system from runoff accumulating on roadways. Catch basins are typically located at the curb in the DOT right-of-way. A catch basin drains storm water runoff from roadways and directs it to the larger system of stormwater infrastructure located underground.



Headwall clogged with yard debris dumped by a homeowner.

An unclogged headwall conveys stormwater into or out of the piped stormwater system. Discharging headwalls are located at the end of a section of the stormwater system and protect the end of the pipe from damage as well as prevent erosion of soil from the force of the discharging water. After exiting the headwall, stormwater runoff typically flows into a drainage easement or directly to a stream. Inlet headwalls are located at the entry to a piped system and direct runoff into a pipe while protecting the pipe as well as preventing erosion to the surrounding soil. Headwalls are also found on pipe carrying stream flow under roadways.