

# City of Monticello Guide for Wetland Protection



The City of Monticello has developed this brochure to inform residents of the benefits of living along the community's wetland areas, to provide tips for protecting and enjoying the open water, and to inform property owners of regulations regarding these spaces.

## Storm Water Ponds

### Stormwater Management

All runoff from streets, houses, and yards is directed to these ponds so that they can provide flood protection.

These ponds control downstream flooding and erosion by holding storm water and releasing it slowly.

### Stormwater Treatment

Stormwater Ponds remove sediment from water before it reaches natural wetlands, rivers, streams, and lakes.

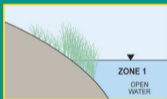
This also improves water quality removing excess nutrients from the water system.

Stormwater Ponds can be homes for wildlife, especially when they take on wetland characteristics.

## Monticello Stormwater Ponds Are Designed Have Three Distinct Zones Or Features:

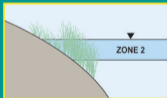
### Open Water or Normal Water Level

This is where 4-5 feet of water is stored as a permanent pool, or the normal water level of a pond.



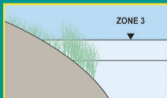
### Tall Wetland Vegetation

In this location there is a native wetland vegetation planting, approximately 10-15 up from normal water level. These are taller grasses reaching heights of 48 inches.



### Short Native Prairie Grass and Wildflowers

The height of this grass reaches between 12-18 inches. In addition to a number of prairie species also planted in this grass, are 47 different types of forbs (wildflowers). The shorter grasses are in place to provide an open view to the wetland area, rather than have the taller grasses grow to the top.



# Conservation Easement Areas

To help protect the community's natural resources, the City of Monticello has developed areas known as "conservation easements". The establishment of these spaces creates uniform ponds and a scenic asset to neighborhoods.

## Benefits of Having a Conservation Easement

**Water Quality** - Vegetation reduces impacts to water from adjacent upland and water ward activities.

**Aesthetics** - A uniform landscape along the sides of the pond provide an aesthetic amenity for the neighborhood and City.

**Wildlife** - Undisturbed wetland vegetation provide habitat and shelter for waterfowl.



In order to protect and maintain Conservation Areas, the City of Monticello has adopted the following restrictions:



- No mowing or clearing vegetation
- No filling or grading
- No retaining walls
- No structures
- No yard waste disposal (grass clippings, leaves, pet waste)

Conservation easements act as a buffer between development and natural resources. Runoff from lawns and houses contain chemicals and fertilizers, which expedite the eutrophication of stormwater, causing green algae to form. Conservation easements provide a buffer of vegetation that provides a layer of protection for water, consuming nutrients before they get to the pond. The vegetation also prevents erosion from compromising the side slopes of the pond.

## Caring for Conservation Easement Areas

To help protect and maintain conservation easements in your neighborhood, property owners are encouraged to:

- Clean up debris or waste on pond edges
- Report any filling, grading or dumping into the wetland areas



If you have questions about Monticello's stormwater or conservation easement areas, please contact the City of Monticello at 763-295-2711.