

Per the Village Engineer

Do you have a BMP on your property or in your neighborhood?

The term “Best Management Practices,” or BMP, was introduced and defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a practice or combination of practices that is an effective, practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by non-point sources.

What is non-point source pollution?

Sources of non-point pollution include sediment, nutrients, motor oil, and lawn care products that run off hard surfaces and yards into storm drains. Storm drains typically empty into nearby water bodies and wetlands. Fortunately for Lake County (that has thousands of acres of water bodies and wetlands) there are BMPs in place.

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Ponds, ditches and depressions that you see every day may actually be engineered stormwater facilities designed to reduce flooding and improve water quality. As development occurs, land is covered by roads, driveways, rooftops and other hard surfaces that do not allow stormwater to infiltrate (or soak) into the ground. Without BMPs, the end result of development may be flooding and poor water quality in streams and lakes. The long-term benefits of BMPs only work if they are maintained to sustain their effectiveness. Maintaining your BMP is an important part of Lake County’s flood reduction and environmental protection efforts.

For more information on maintaining your BMP, click the *Living With Wetlands* link.