

WaterWatch



Storm Drain Bond: New Detention Basins and Piped Systems

When a storm is coming, we need places for the water to go. Sometimes the solution is to slow the water down on its way to Utah Lake and the Provo River. That is one of the big reasons why we are in the process of constructing large detention basins on the north side of town.

If you have driven by Bonneville Park recently, then you know big changes are happening. This is going to be one of our new storm-water regional detention basins. Another such facility is being con-

structed at 1300 N 400 E, near Timpanogos High School. When completed these facilities will function like detention basins we have in place already such as at 400 N 1200 W, 400 E Moor Lane and Nielson's Grove.

So what do these detention basins do? At times we receive storms that drop more water than our storm sewer pipes and sumps can handle. At these times we need places to temporarily store water until the system can handle it. The way this is done is by routing water into a temporary storage facility. By putting large pipes to feed detention basins and smaller pipes to drain them, we can back water up until the downstream system can handle it.

Imagine a bathtub with



Timpanogos Detention Area - 1300 N 400 E

Litter

Litter is an unsightly problem that can not only cause frustration but also could lead to serious consequences for our water resources.

The criminal offences section of the City code includes the following statement about litter: "It shall be unlawful for any person to throw or place litter in or on any street, alley, sidewalk, public buildings or grounds or on any private property without the permission of the owner. It shall also be unlawful for any person distributing handbills to throw any handbill on any street, alley, sidewalk, public grounds, or the yard or lot of any private property. For purposes of this section "litter" shall include, but shall not be limited to any bottles, glass, crockery, cans, scrap metal, junk, paper, garbage, unused food, cigarette butts, cigar stump, quid of tobacco, rubbish, discarded building materials or similar refuse discarded as no longer being useful."

Our City code prohibits litter in many ways. In order to obtain a certificate of occupancy for a newly constructed or reconstructed building, the owner must

(Continued on back)

(Continued on back)

If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

City of Orem Public Works
955 N 900 West
Orem, UT 84057

Phone: 801-229-7500
Fax: 801-229-7599

We're on the Web!
www.orem.org

Litter

(Continued from front)

make sure that all landscaped areas are free from litter.

Litter is also defined as a pollutant in regards to storm water.

Litter often has food wastes and bacteria. It also can be mixed with hazardous chemicals. In addition, plastic and other litter have a tendency to block off storm drain inlets which could lead to local flooding.

Make sure the lid to your garbage can is closed. Businesses keep your dumpsters closed as often as possible. Also inspect your dumpsters for leaks.

To keep our City clean and enjoyable, please take some time this spring to make sure that your surroundings are litter free.



New Detention Basins

(Continued from front)

the faucet turned on full blast and the drain only open part way. The effect would be a bathtub that slowly fills until the faucet is turned off. After this it slowly drains. In this way we do not overtax our system and minimize flooding on our streets or possibly into homes and businesses.

These giant "bathtubs" are designed to hold the runoff from a 25-year storm (meaning there is only a 4% chance of a storm that large happening in a given year). Often these storms do not occur city-wide. In some instances the storm can be as localized as one city block. So what happens if we get a storm larger than a 25-year storm? In this case, City streets are used as secondary drainage systems.

These new basins are *part* of the City's Storm Drainage Master Plan. They will help minimize flooding and reduce the number of sumps needed throughout the City. In addition, they make it possible to use smaller pipes downstream which results in significant cost savings to City residents.

The Bonneville detention basin will slow water from the 1600 N corridor. The Timpanogos detention basin will take care of water released from the detention basins at 400 E Moor Lane and 600 E 1600 N as well as runoff

from 400 E eastward to 1100 E from 1000 N to 1600 N.

You may be asking yourself what these detention basins are going to look like when they are finished. Each of these new detention basins are what is called a multi-use detention basin. This means that when the basin is dry, it can be used for other purposes. This is illustrated very well by the detention basin at 400 N 1200 W where the Orem Skate Park was constructed. The maximum depth of the basins will be about six feet.

These new detention basins will be left as open recreation areas. Both of the new basins will have walking paths around their perimeters. The Timpanogos detention basin at 1300 N 400 E will be home to one of the Timpanogos high school soccer fields.

Construction on these basins began this fall. The grading should be finished and grass planted by the spring of 2006 and the fields should be available for recreational use by the fall of 2006.



Bonneville Park Detention Area - 1600 N 800 W