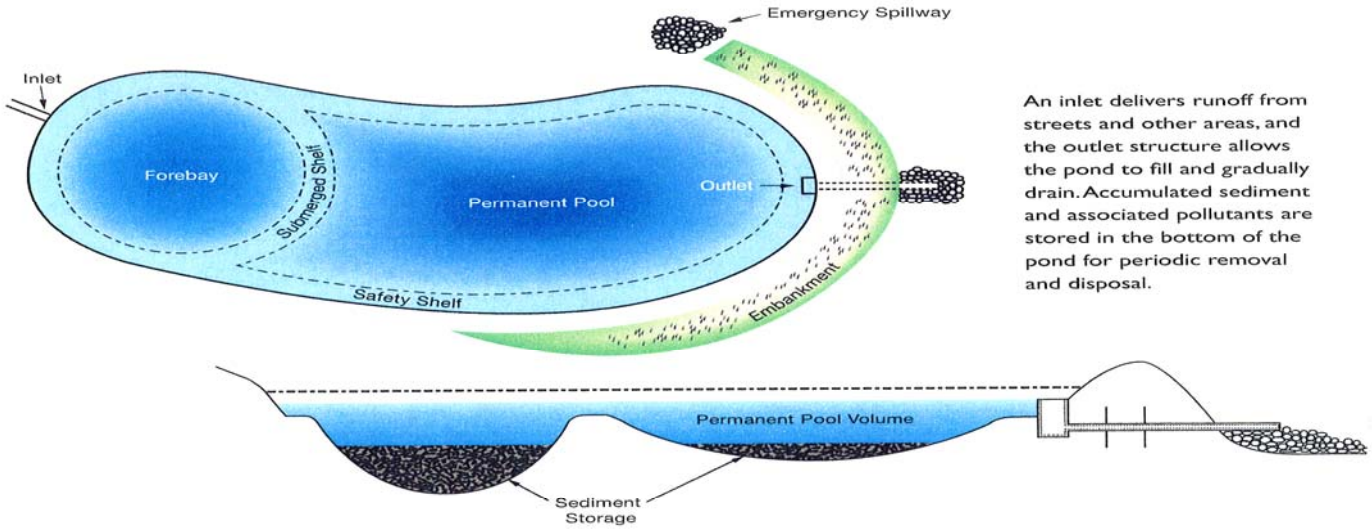
Storm Water Detention Pond Safety

Storm water detention ponds are among the most effective storm water treatment practices, and help communities meet the "control measures" required by new federal and state regulations. They remove pollutants by slowing the flow of rushing storm water and holding it long enough to allow sediment. To understand the design of a storm water detention pond, please refer to the general schematic below.



Village of Little Chute public officials, management, and maintenance staff are receiving continuing education in site safety, design, and maintenance of storm water detention ponds. Through the Village Newsletter, we will attempt to provide adequate information and educate residents about storm water detention ponds. The following safety issues are being addressed to reduce risks involved with storm water detention ponds:

- **Pond access** – Ponds are often located near parks, trails and other recreational settings, which can draw children and teens to them. Since people and pets should not enter storm water ponds, "No Swimming" signs should be installed warning citizens about the dangers of rapidly rising storm water runoff.

- **Safety shelf** – A safety shelf around the perimeter of the detention pond reduces the risk of someone falling into the pond. Wetland plants on the safety shelf combined with shrubs and tall grasses on the slopes and an unmowed buffer around the pond will discourage wading and swimming. This approach can also create a wildlife habitat and an attractive natural shoreline.

- **Outlets** – When feasible, outlets are placed away from areas of heavy public use. Outlets are screened so that the public will not be drawn to it. Thick shrubs, grading techniques, and aesthetic fencing or railing can also be used. However, fencing can hamper mowing, collect debris and detract from the area's open space. Generally, fencing should not be necessary if other appropriate design practices have been used. Embankment side slopes and the rack itself is designed to be sloped enough to allow a person to crawl away from the structure when the pond water rises.