



## Requirements For

## Ponds

For the purposes of regulation, a pond is defined as an artificial body of water created by soil excavation or intervention in watercourses, surface drainage or groundwater aquifers, regardless of size and whether the creation of the pond is an end in itself or merely a by-product of soil extraction activity. These regulations do not apply to naturally occurring bodies of water.

A Zoning Permit and a Site Plan Review are required to build a pond in Tittabawassee Township. A site plan for a pond of less than one-acre surface area can be approved by the Zoning Administrator after an administrative review. A site plan that includes a pond or ponds with a total surface area of one acre or more must be approved by the Township Planning Commission.

Ponds are only allowed in the A1- Agricultural and the R1-A – Rural Residential zoning districts. Ponds are not allowed in any other residential district unless they are part of a larger development plan.

Ponds created by embankments or dams across streams or watercourses are not permitted.

### **The following documentation must be submitted:**

1. Application for Project Permit
2. Application for Site Plan Review
3. Site Plan, prepared by and containing the seal of a licensed engineer, architect, landscape architect or surveyor, containing all of the information listed in the Site Plan Review Checklist and the specifications for any spillway or drain for the proposed pond. Check with township clerk for number of copies required.
4. Completed Site Plan Review Checklist (provided by township).
5. Diagram or survey showing distance to surrounding structures and their uses.
6. A profile of the proposed excavation, illustrating elevations and changes in slope, with elevations noted in five (5') foot intervals. If water is expected to accumulate in the excavation, the projected water level must also be shown.
7. A soil evaluation report describing the excavation site and any needed drainage or seepage corrections.

### **Site Selection**

1. Avoid sites of ecological significance, such as wetlands or mature forest. If wetlands are to be affected, a State permit may be needed.
2. Excavations which create ponds should be located to minimize the chance of pollution from sources such as feedlots, corrals or septic tanks.
3. Excavations may be no closer than fifty (50') feet, measured horizontally, to a power line, and may not be within a public utility or transportation easement.

(Continued)

### **Construction and Operation**

1. An excavation should not change surface drainage or underwater aquifers so as to adversely impact neighboring uses.
2. Any pond banks shall have a maximum slope of one (1) foot vertical to four (4) feet horizontal which extends below the projected low water surface elevation to a depth of at least eight (8) feet.
3. Minimum designed water depth of a pond must be fifteen (15) feet to ensure proper aeration and circulation of water.
4. All required environmental permits shall be obtained and obeyed, including the soil and sedimentation control permit.
5. Any excavated material not removed from the site shall be graded to a continuous slope which does not exceed one (1) foot vertical to three (3) feet horizontal and arranged to prevent runoff from impacting adjacent properties. Said fill shall blend visually with the surrounding landscape.
6. By October 15 of each year, the completed portion of an excavation and any disturbed area around it, shall be graded and seeded.
7. No machinery or equipment shall operate, and no trucks, trailers, or other conveyances shall arrive at any excavation site before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
8. Proper measures shall be taken to minimize the nuisance of traffic noise and flying dust or soil while a site is being excavated.
9. When two (2) or more dwellings are located within two hundred (200) feet of the edge of any water body on an excavation site or on any parcel, said water body shall be enclosed by a fence at least four (4) feet high with a lockable gate.
10. Ponds constructed for recreational purposes must be located outside of all required yards.