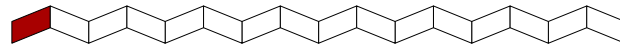




OUTDOOR PONDS



Safety & Security Fact Sheet

Designing and installing a pond has become a popular school project that beautifies school grounds and provides an attractive habitat for small wildlife. In order to have a successful project that will result in a safe installation, the following guidelines must be followed:

- ✓ A pond must be located in a courtyard that is completely surrounded by the school building so that it can be secured after normal school hours. This is necessary to prevent any accidental drowning of unsupervised individuals.
- ✓ A pond should be no deeper than 12 inches and should have sloping sides to prevent frozen-water damage. Installation of a hydrostatic release valve is recommended so ground pressure will not raise the pond whenever it is empty.
- ✓ Components must be listed by a recognized independent testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratories if there is an electrical water pump or lighting devices. No electrical work is performed without approval from Design and Construction Services. Design and Construction Services must contract the installation of **any** electrical item in a school. Submit the request for electrical installation through the FCPSnet using the RequestLine Facilities Improvements (DC407) Requests.
- ✓ Any modification to a school's plumbing system, such as the installation of a new hose bib or drain, needs a Facilities Improvements Request. Follow the procedures mentioned above.
- ✓ Plants and evergreens must be of a nonpoisonous species as defined in ***Managing Risks: A Safety Manual***.
- ✓ "Miss Utility" must be called before digging to identify the location of underground services once approval is granted.
- ✓ Pond installation requires a long-time commitment to properly maintaining the site so that it will not deteriorate and become an eyesore or a hazard.
- ✓ The pond installation area should be drawn on a site plan that shows the location in the courtyard. The plan should also include the materials used, the location of any proposed plants, and the location of other existing features such as paved walks, benches, entry doors, or other structures.
- ✓ Site plans should be sent to the Office of Safety and Security (OSS) along with a brief description of academic programs to support the installation of the pond. OSS will coordinate the review of the proposal with Design and Construction Services.

If you need assistance, call the safety section at 571-423-2010.