WINDCREST
TEXAS

AGENDA
CITY OF WINDCREST, TEXAS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 14, 2015

6:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE WINDCREST PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD AT WINDCREST CITY HALL, 8601 MIDCROWN, WINDCREST, TEXAS ON THE 14th DAY OF JANUARY 2015 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. DURING THE MEETING THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED AND THE COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE LISTED SUBJECTS.

THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RESERVES THE OPTION TO RECESS THE MEETING DURING THE EVENING OF JANUARY 14, 2015 AND TO RECONVENE THE MEETING ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, JANUARY 15, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE WINDCREST CITY HALL, 8601 MIDCROWN, WINDCREST, TEXAS.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MEMBERS OF OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES MAY ATTEND THE MEETING IN NUMBERS THAT MAY CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF SUCH OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES, SO THAT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING IS ALSO A MEETING OF THE OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES WHOSE MEMBERS ARE IN ATTENDANCE. THE MEMBERS OF THE OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES MAY PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH OCCUR AT THE MEETING, BUT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE OTHER COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES WHOSE MEMBERS ARE IN ATTENDANCE.

Ordinance No. 618 (09/20/10), Repealing Ordinance No. 593
At all City Council, City Commission or City Board meetings, the agenda shall include a "citizens to be heard" item. It is suggested that Citizens wishing to speak during this item sign in on the sign up roster prior to the meeting. During "citizens to be heard" comments, each individual may speak on an agenda item or any other matter affecting the city. In addition to the "citizens to be heard" portion of meetings, a person may make comments on agenda items prior to the vote on the agenda item. A member of the public will have a total of six (6) minutes to be heard during a City Council, City Commission or City Board Meeting. This does not include any responses from the body. The six (6) minutes time limit authorized herein may not be transferred to another speaker in whole or in part. The presiding Officer or his/her designee will assign a Time Keeper to each meeting. The Time Keeper will maintain strict compliance of the six (6) minute rule, stopping speakers who exceed the allotted time. As authorized by Section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, the Presiding Officer may direct a City Official to make: a statement of specific factual information in

response to an inquiry made by a member of the public or of the City Council, or; a recitation of existing policy in response to an inquiry made by a member of the public or the City Council. Any deliberation of or decision about the subject of the inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting. Any question posed by a Citizen, Council Member, Board Member or Commission Member for which an answer is not available at a meeting shall be answered by a member of the staff or Presiding Officer at the next regular meeting of the Body, if an answer is reasonably available and prudent. If the information is sensitive, staff will seek advice from the City Attorney.

REQUEST ALL PAGERS AND CELL PHONES BE TURNED OFF, EXCEPT EMERGENCY ON-CALL PERSONNEL. CITIZENS ARE ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM TALKING DURING COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Meeting Chair: please remind each participant in your meeting that they must speak into a microphone; the recording is the Official Minutes of your meeting and all who speak must be recorded. All guest speakers and citizens to be heard must speak from podium. Please interrupt speakers during meeting if you recognize that they are not speaking into microphone and have them do so.

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

II. Citizens to be Heard on Subsequent and Non-Subsequent Agenda Items

A member of the public will have three (3) minutes to discuss non-subsequent agenda items.

A member of the public will have six (6) minutes to discuss subsequent agenda items.

Parks and Recreation Commission members may discuss and respond to current and past agendas on subsequent and non-subsequent agenda items by citizens to be heard.

III. Presentations

1. The Parks and Recreation Commission will receive an update from Don Myles with Friends of the Park.

2. The Parks and Recreation Commission will receive an update regarding the status of the ponds.

IV. Old Business

None

V. Work In Progress

1. The Parks and Recreation Commission will receive, discuss and may take action on an update regarding netting or fencing at the Takas Park soccer fields. (Ref 11.12.14 P&R http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1348)

2. The Parks and Recreation Commission will review, discuss and may take action on recommending a possible ordinance amending chapter 26, parks and open areas, of the code of ordinances of the city of windcrest, texas by prohibiting fishing in ponds or lakes in the city. (Ref 08.04.14 Joint SCCM / Planning & Zoning Meeting http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1297 // 09.10.14 P&R http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1317 // Ref 12.01.14 SCCM http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1364 // 12.15.14 RCCM http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1383 // SCCM 01.05.15 http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1392) (Att. 1)

VI. Capital Improvement Projects

None

VII. New Business

1. The Parks and Recreation Commission will discuss a possible park on the west end of the city.

2. The Parks and Recreation Commission will review, discuss and may take action on the striping of the basketball courts at Takas Park.

VIII. General Announcements & Future Agenda Items Requested

Per Ordinance No. 618, repealing Ordinance No. 593; Section 9: Every agenda shall include an item entry granting a member the opportunity to propose an item for consideration of future agendas for Regular or Special Meetings. Any member may request the inclusion of such items at any meeting.

IX. Adjournment

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Windcrest is a true and correct copy of said Notice and was posted on the bulletin board at City Hall of said City in a convenient place to the public and said Notice was posted more than seventy-two hours prior to the meeting on December 10, 2014.

By: Kelly Rodriguez **, City Secretary**

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the City of Windcrest Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible, and accessible parking spaces are available. The City of Windcrest will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending Parks & Recreation meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received 48 hours prior to the

meetings. Please contact Kelly Rodriguez, City Secretary, at 210-655-0022 ext. 2150 or Fax 210-655-8776.

I certify that the attached notice and agenda of items to be considered by the Parks and Recreation Board was removed by me from the City Hall bulletin board on the ____ day of December, 2014.

_____ Title: _____

ORGANIC SEDIMENT REMOVAL SYSTEMS, LLC

Restoring Ponds and Lakes Throughout the USA

INFORMATION PACKET

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ORGANIC SEDIMENT REMOVAL SYSTEMS

"A Leader in Pond Restoration since 1991"

Background

For more information call:

O.S.R. Systems
1-800-752-8315

Rich Kohutko
608-565-7105
608-547-7753
Or
Michael Kohutko
608-234-1996

Or visit us at pondclean.com

Dear Pond Owner:

I would like to introduce you to Organic Sediment Removal Systems and give you a little background of myself. I am the owner and founder of OSR Systems. In 1990, I developed a system that removes sediment from the bottom of ponds and restores them to their natural beauty.

As a Rescue Diver with the Juneau County Sheriff's Department Dive Team and owner of two ponds, I became very concerned after spending large amounts of money in my own ponds on chemicals, aeration systems, etc. yet they continued to deteriorate rapidly.

After further study of the ponds, I discovered that the bottom had accumulated 1 ½ to 2 feet of MUCK; a substance sealing off the entire bottom, clogging springs, and stopping any ground flow of fresh water into the pond, leaving it stagnant and dying.

This MUCK; comprised of leaves, weeds, and other matter, was being decomposed by anaerobic bacteria, a very slow process. So slow, it could not keep up with the annual accumulation of debris. This anaerobic bacteria and organically rich MUCK was actually feeding the plant kingdom, compounding the problem with more weed and algae growth. It also was poisoning the clean oxygenated water by saturating it with nitrogen and methane gases. Typically, this is Mother Nature's way of filling in ponds and transforming them into marshes, from there into prairies.

Realizing the problem and after some experimentation, I developed a very unique system unlike any other to efficiently remove the MUCK from the bottom of ponds, restoring them to their original condition. OSR Systems has been restoring ponds for eighteen years and is now throughout the USA. Unfortunately, it is practically impossible to visit every pond. Even then, a diver would have to take bore samples to determine the amount of sediment in each pond. Because we have almost two decades of experience in cleaning ponds, just by knowing the size and age of a pond, we can make an accurate determination of cost.

Removing the organic sediment (MUCK) from ponds is the first and most important step in restoring them to their natural beauty. Once this MUCK is removed, you will notice the difference as your pond starts to revive itself back into the animal kingdom, providing microorganisms for fish and other aquatic wildlife which thrive in healthy ponds.

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ORGANIC SEDIMENT REMOVAL SYSTEMS
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A New Pond Service

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Remove Bottom Sediments from Your Pond

Every pond is in a dying process the moment it is created. Leaves off of trees, weeds and algae, and other organic matter travel to the bottom of the pond, taking the form of MUCK. This gradually fills in the pond and is the direct cause of the many problems that pond owners have. MUCK contains toxic gases and harbors nutrients that cause excessive weed and algae problems, which deteriorates the ecosystem of a pond. Now there is a unique, efficient, and economical way of removing the MUCK and restoring new life to your pond. Let's compare the old solution with the new solution and you decide which is the better approach.

The Old Solution – Mechanical Dredging

Mechanical dredging is most effective when the pond has been completely drained and the bottom sediments have had time to dry. This means all aquatic life must either be relocated or killed off. If the pond is dredged wet, as soon as the dredge hits the sediments, the sediments are so fine they explode into the water column releasing all the toxic gases and nutrients. This kills off most of the existing aquatic life and leaves the pond a black, mucky mess. Once the dredging is finished, the sediments then settle back to the bottom of the pond, and much of the dredging benefits are lost.

- Heavy equipment can cause extensive damage to the landscape.
- Heavy equipment is hindered by houses, power lines, telephone poles, and mature trees.
- The cost in many cases is prohibited and most mechanical dredgers will not even consider smaller ponds.

The New Solution – Organic Sediment Removal Systems

High-volume suction pumps are used to descend to the bottom of the pond. They move into the sediment, vacuuming it up, just as you would vacuum a carpet. This not only removes the sediments, but also the toxic gases and nutrients. The bottom is restored to its original depth. The process is extremely efficient. It can also remove loose clay, rocks, and sand, freeing up covered springs, irrigation systems, culverts, and cisterns.

The Results Are Crystal Clear

- ***The restoration of the natural bottom without disturbing existing aquatic life.***
- ***A dramatic reduction of toxic gases, nutrients, weeds, and algae.***
- ***An expanded living space for aquatic life and a richer environment.***
- ***A cost of up to 75% less than mechanical dredging without damage to existing landscape.***
- ***Cleaner water and a healthier ecosystem, increasing property values.***
- ***A great reduction in chemical usage.***

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ORGANIC SEDIMENT REMOVAL SYSTEMS

"A Leader in Pond Restoration since 1991"

Life Cycle of a Pond

Dear Pond Owner:

Thank you for your interest in OSR Systems: a new and innovative idea in pond cleaning. We hope the information enclosed will bring a better understanding of ponds and our procedure.
Unfortunately, for all ponds at the moment of birth, they start a dying process. This is nothing to be alarmed about. It is just part of a natural cycle of nature trying to reclaim the pond; transforming it into a swamp, then a marsh, and finally a prairie.

In the beginning, our fine-feathered friends bring algae, weeds, and eggs to our ponds. The wind contributes leaves, branches, grasses, and other material. All of this accumulates in what we call "the bowl" or "septic tank" of the pond, usually the deepest area. In the shallows up to about three feet, live the aerobic bacteria. This bacterium decomposes foreign matter quickly. In the bowl area live the anaerobic bacteria, which cannot decompose the incoming matter quickly enough. This bacterial war rages on and the fallout is methane, sulfur dioxides, phosphates, and other toxic gases, diffusing throughout the water in the pond, reducing oxygenated water for fish and other aquatic species. This MUCK is nutrient rich and creates a vicious, deteriorating cycle. In essence, instead of the aerobic bacteria feeding the plant kingdom, and continuing a natural, healthy food chain, the anaerobic bacteria disrupts this natural process and feeds the plant kingdom, increasing algae and weed growth, thus suffocating the pond. Natural springs and aerators help, but eventually even they lose ground to this natural process.

We at OSR Systems use a hydraulic method of pumping the sludge (MUCK) from the bowl areas. It is an extremely clean and cost-effective way of removing the sludge and toxic gases without the use of heavy equipment. It also does not interfere with the existing wild and aquatic life, which presently inhabit the pond. Once the bowl areas are cleaned to their original bottom, the toxic gases are removed with the muck, greatly enhancing the water clarity and quality, giving your pond a fresh new start as it was in the very beginning. Due to high volume of sediments removed per day, we will require a discharge area on site to discharge the sediments to, such as a wooded area or fields that flow away from the pond. It will not mound up, but will flow and seek its own gravitational level. It is an excellent fertilizer and will not harm grasslands or wooded areas. The pump used can reach 200 feet into a pond and discharge back up to 2,000 feet, depending on elevation and grade. For those of you who do not have an adequate discharge area, there is an alternative way to contain the muck. **We are having remarkable success in cleaning ponds in this manner and are confident we can be of valuable service to you also, or help you with any questions that you may have.**

For more Information Call:

OSR Systems
1-800-752-8315

Rich Kohutko
608-565-7105
608-547-7753
Or
Michael Kohutko
608-234-1996
Or visit us at
nondcleancom

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TYPES OF SEDIMENT AND SEDIMENT COMPACTION

All ponds seem to basically be the same, but in reality they are not. Different factors affecting ponds can be:

- Ponds in heavily-wooded areas will accumulate many more leaves and have a higher PH-level, (or acidic), than those ponds that are surrounded by pines, which have a lower, (or alkaline), PH.
- Larger ponds will have huge geese and duck populations, where smaller ponds will have few, if any at all.
- Spring-fed, icy cold ponds will retain cool temperatures, whereas shallow, warmer ponds which heat up quickly will accelerate algae growth and decrease oxygen levels.
- Feeder streams and culverts can deposit much more foreign material into a pond than a closed system.
- Neglected ponds produce heavy amounts of weeds and algae, which creates sediment quickly.

As you can see, the list can go on and in each situation can substantially affect the sediment composition and ecology of a pond. Because of these factors, the depth of sediment, consistency, and viscosity can change dramatically.

In most ponds, the sediment is layered. The bottom layer, depending on the ground the pond was dug in, averages around six inches of soft and clumpy clays. This material is usually left behind by the excavators of ponds and caused by water permeation. Next is a layer of fine clays and soils, which has the viscosity of a fine cream. These layers usually occur when the pond first fills with water and the sides become soluble and slowly flow to the bottom. The third layer is typically 95% organic biomass and 5% of loam soils. This material generally accumulates on an average of one inch per year in normal conditions.

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A cylinder-core sample of a twelve-year-old pond would look something like this: See Figure 1.

Figure 1

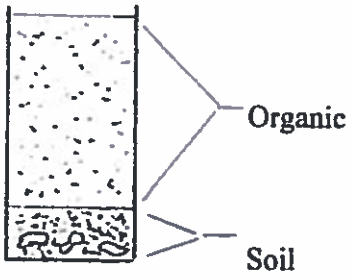
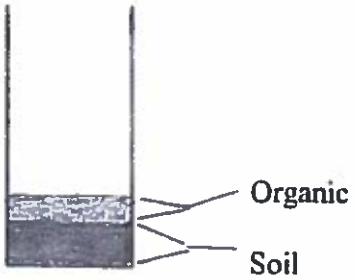


Figure 2



Engineers who study this material and build the sediment containers for it, dehydrate the organic material in the cylinders. After all the water evaporates and the material compacts to a solid state, it is then re-measured. It is interesting to note that the ratio from liquid to solid is 12:1. In other words, 12 inches of organic biomass, suspended in the pond water amounts to one inch of the same material, (after compaction and dehydration), settled and dried in the discharge field.

After a couple of months, we return to some of our sites where we have used sediment containers. By then, the material has dried. The volume is then calculated and divided by the number of days we worked. The average is around 25 cubic yards per day. This may not sound like much, but we must remember: the material is now in a solid state. Let's expand the material back to its original liquid state as it was in the pond and use the engineering study of 12:1.
12 X 25 cubic yards = 300 liquid cubic yards removed per day. (That is a lot).
This is why hauling the material away in a liquid state is cost-prohibitive. One would need 3 tank wagons at $900 per day = $2700 in hauling charges. Using the sediment containers in highly-developed areas, we only need an area perfectly level and flat of 25 feet by 100 feet. After the material dries, it can be easily hauled or better yet, dozed over the area to avoid hauling costs. The best way is to have a level field or wooded area into which to discharge. Three hundred liquid cubic yards will flow evenly in a large area. But after it compacts and dries, it does not amount to much at 25 cubic yards. For instance, 25 cubic yards spread evenly over a 200 by 200 square foot area, would equal a depth of .2025 inches or 1/5 of an inch. Consider this scenario: remember the first couple layers of sediment on the bottom of a pond, (soft clays and loam soils). Our pumps are so powerful, it is inevitable for this sediment to be removed also. Because the material is in an inert state, the compaction ratio is 1:1. So, let's say we pump 4 inches of this material and 24 inches of organic muck, which compacts to 2 inches. The ratio mix would then be 66% loam soils and clay and 33% organic material. Then spread this material onto a farm field, which is basically the same mix and our material will disappear before your very eyes. This is exactly why I insist the homeowners are present during our operation, or they will never know we have been there. It is also why our system is so unobtrusive and environmentally-friendly.

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Operations of OSR Systems

The following information explains how our operation functions as opposed to alternative methods.

OSR Systems, a new concept, was founded in 1990. Its primary function and design is to remove the decaying organic biomass (leaves, algae, weeds, and other decaying matter) which is causing the most environmental damage to the ecology of our waterways. Our system also removes inorganic material such as loam soils, (topsoils) and soft clays, (which have washed in through culverts, and streams), or erosion that has mixed with the organic material over time.

It is important to note that our system cannot dig or penetrate the natural bottom or design of any pond. This is because we use no mechanical methods such as augers, back hoes, or draglines, which can create vertical down-pressure and dig deeper, changing the contour or original design of a pond. Our system uses a centrifugal pump, which creates a powerful suction. Our special patented clips are then forced horizontally through the sediment, vacuuming up the layers of material without causing down-pressure. This unique method allows OSR Systems to cost-effectively and efficiently remove either specifically-targeted areas, layers, or all layers of sediment to the hard bottom, but no deeper. Because of its unique nature, most city, township, and state ordinances classify this system under maintenance and lake-basin cleaning. Furthermore, it has been proven to have no damaging impact on the environment to ponds owned by homeowners, condominium complexes, and businesses.

Listed below are examples of pond-restoration projects performed by OSR Systems which have proven to have no damaging impact on the environment.

Example 1
Sediment Removal for Harbors and Channels
Washington Island - Door County, Wisconsin

OSR Systems was the only system approved by the Department of Natural Resources to remove sediment in this area because of its low disturbance to the environment.

Example 2
Sediment Removal for Retention Ponds
Underwriter's Laboratories - Northbrook, Illinois

Contractors using augers needed to lower the 25-foot deep, 3-acre pond to a 5-foot water depth in order to function. This would have a considerably negative impact on the aquatic life throughout the pond.
OSR Systems can operate to a depth of 150 feet. Therefore, there was no need to lower the water depth.

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Example 3
Sediment Removal for Ponds in Public Areas
Turner Pond - Roselle, Illinois

This 2.5 acre pond is centrally-located in Roselle, Illinois. It is richly landscaped, with playgrounds, picnic areas, and jogging paths which attract high traffic. Their major concerns were: impairment to fishing and aquatic life, reduction of park facility use, and destruction of the landscape. OSR Systems allowed all of the park's activities to continue without interruption. The only visible impact to the landscape of the 20-acre park was a discharge area located on site, which used an area totaling 150 X 50 feet adjacent to Roselle Avenue.

DISCHARGE

All sediment is discharged on site. The sediment has a liquid consistency and disperses evenly throughout flat areas. In limited confined areas, different sediment containments are used. The containment areas use a polyurethane filter material woven with a 50-grain-filter sieve construction, trapping sediment and allowing only water to escape. Because of OSR Systems' concern for the environment, we are extremely careful where we discharge sediments. They must be deposited in high, dry areas, (such as woodlands or fields), where this sediment cannot reach or fill in any neighboring waterways or flood-plain areas. In the past 17 years, we have never had an incident where this material has leached into a non-designated area.

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SILT CONTAINERS

Before the implantation of silt containers, all the jobs we performed were on large properties that had wooded areas or farm fields onto which sediments could be discharged. Because sediment is removed in liquid form, it evenly disperses and fills in the lowest areas first. Ponds in urban areas without adequate, natural, discharge sites could not be cleaned until we discovered and utilized silt containers.

Silt containers are used when certain circumstances prevent us from discharging around the property.

- Limited space for discharge due to highly-developed areas
- Unlevel ground that angles back towards the pond
- Nearby wetlands or streams in the area of discharge

In 2004, we completed our first job using silt containers for Underwriters Laboratories in Northbrook, Illinois. We used ten 45' X 50' Geotubes to follow the terrain evenly.

Sizes

Silt containers can be produced in various sizes. Sizes are chosen depending upon the duration of the project.

50 Footer = 1-2 day project
75 Footer = 3-4 day project
100 Footer = 5-7 day project

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For larger projects over 7 days, we use multiple containers. When using multiple containers, we can fit more sediment into the containers because we switch pumping from one to the other, allowing more time to dewater. We call this stuffing. We continue to stuff the containers until the integrity of the structural strength of the container is compromised.

Different Sediments

Different types of sediments will fill the containers in different ways. Pure organic sediment which is pumped near a 12:1 ratio has filled a 50-foot container, 5 feet in one day. Dewatering overnight compressed the sediments to 8 inches.

Clays and mixed material which is pumped at a much finer ratio, 4:1 to 5:1, will fill the container slower. Because the ratio is less, the compaction, over time, will be greater, due to the fine material allowing the container to dewater quicker.

Heavy material and sands that pump at a 1:1 to 2:1 ratio will cause bags to squat. This means that the bag may not fill greater than 3-4 feet high because the sides bulge out due to the heavier solids not allowing the sides to rise to a cylindrical shape.

Dewatering

Once sediment is pumped into the containers, they will start dewatering immediately. The initial water that drains will be gray water at first. Later, as the container starts to seal, only clear water will discharge. Most dewatering occurs during the first few days. Afterwards, dewatering is slowed by the sediments compressing against the sides of the container, sealing the fabric. Once pumping ceases, the container will slowly continue to dewater. A container, on average, will be ready for removal in two to four months. The time of season, weather, and type of sediment all have a factor on when the container will dry.

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Disposal

After the containers are hard-dried, they can be cut open and removed, if necessary. Some clients contract with local excavators to have the material hauled away. Golf courses have used the material to redesign fairways, bunkers, and driving ranges. Homeowners and associations have used the sediment for landscaping and potting purposes. Because we can discharge away from the body of water over 2,000 feet, most sediments are pumped to and deposited in a convenient area, where they are graded in place and simply seeded over to avoid hauling charges.

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Permits

Please read this entire letter. Any information enclosed can be useful.

Thank you for considering Organic Sediment Removal Systems for your pond restoration project. You have received this letter in preparation for obtaining permits. Permits can be a very simple process, or a very complicated, time-consuming one. This letter is designed to guide you through the least troublesome path.

First, I would like to explain OSR System's position. Because we travel extensively throughout the Midwest, it is difficult to keep on top of the permitting process. Different geographical areas handle issuing permits in various ways.

Secondly, you will soon find that few agencies want to deal with permits because they either know little about them or they want little to do with them. Inevitably, you will find yourself shuffled from one bureaucracy to another playing phone tag. We basically have little time for this. Once you have made initial contact with the right people and if they have any questions that you cannot answer, we will be eager to assist you.

Thirdly, your specific territory is more familiar to you than it is to us. You will naturally progress a lot further and quicker than we will. Also, when talking to these individuals, you may need to explain our process. We are enclosing literature titled "Operations of OSR Systems" to help you answer any questions a regulatory agency may have about our process. Feel free to send them this information.

For Wisconsin Residents:

- If you own the pond or lake and the land encompassing the pond -
- If the pond or lake has no public access -
- If it is private
- If it is not within 500 feet of a navigable waterway -
- If it is discharged on site -

You generally do not need a permit.

Or if you have a class-C fishing license, you may not need a permit.
This is to the best of our knowledge as of late.
Rules and regulations change often. If you are still unsure whether or not you need a permit, you may wish to contact the Department of Natural Resources- Water Management Division in your area.

For Illinois Residents:

In our experience, we have found that many of the villages and townships independently deal with permits for natural ponds, lakes, and retention ponds. This is where you have an advantage over OSR Systems. You or one of your associates may know someone who works for the village or township or is on the town board that may be familiar with this process. Check with these people first and who they recommend you contact.

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For All Residents:

We have heard that in 1992, the Army Corp of Engineers opted out of the pond business and directed their main attention to major waterways, lakes, and flood plains. If you think that your pond is in a flood plain or major waterway, by all means contact the Army Corp of Engineers.

Important for All Residents When Applying for a Permit:

When applying for a permit, be very careful of the words you use. OSR Systems uses a very economical and efficient method for removing sediments and is the least intrusive system on the environment and its surrounding landscape. However, realize that the people you are talking with do not know this. If you use such words as "dredging", "digging", "mechanical", or "hydraulic", red flags go up all over the place. The immediate fear is the destruction of the environment or pond. Heavy equipment destroys the landscape, and more so, changes the original design or natural contour of the pond, lake, or retention area, (which they do; it is unavoidable when using these methods).

Hydraulic dredging uses a mechanical auger. It has no control where or how deep it is digging and it will dig deeper than intended, which changes the original design and destroys both microorganisms and non-microorganisms living beneath the subsoil under the pond. Backhoes and draglines fall under the same principle. They create major concerns and you may be referred to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for environmental impact studies.

Instead, you want to use words such as "clean", "vacuum", "removal of organic material", (leaves, weeds, algae, muck, and other decaying matter), or ***"maintenance only"***. Be very cautious and use only these passive words. Even though OSR Systems falls under hydraulic dredging, we use no augers that create vertical down-pressure, which can dig deeper. Our system works horizontally, specifically targeting certain areas or layers of sediment. We can remove just the organic material, which is causing the most environmental damage to ponds and saturating the ponds with excessive nutrients and toxic gases; or we can remove all layers (organic and inorganic) right to the hard bottom. But our system will not dig beneath the natural bottom. Therefore, we do not change a natural system or an engineer's designed system. It remains intact.

Example of a Permit Application Introduction

Dear Sir:

We are afraid that our pond is becoming a health hazard. We have learned that the pond is filling in naturally with organic material, such as weeds, leaves, algae, and other decaying matter. This is causing excessive blooms of weeds, algae, foul-smelling water, and in some cases, has killed our fish. We have found someone who can remove this material and clean our pond. They vacuum up the sediment and place it on site. After it dries, we are going to seed over it. We feel this falls under maintenance and do we need a permit to maintain our pond and keep it healthy?

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Permit Examples

Underwriter's Laboratories – Northbrook, Illinois

- 3-acre retention pond
- To be discharged on site
- EPA was contacted.
- Permit was issued effortlessly within 60 days.

Cardinal Health Corporation– Gurnee Illinois

- 5-acre pond
- To be discharged on site
- EPA was contacted.
- Forms were filed.
- Permit was issued in 360 days.

Wheaton, Illinois

- 1-acre pond
- To be discharged on site
- Private Association
- Village was contacted.
- Environmental impact study required by Village for EPA.
- Cost was $9,000 for impact study.
- Time elapsed – 2 years
- Permit – still pending (I feel this was taken to absurdity)

Roselle Park District – Roselle, Illinois

- 3-acre pond
- To be discharged on site and hauled away
- Village issued permit
- Time elapsed – 5 days

Lake Forest, Illinois

- Five 1-acre ponds
- To be discharged on site and hauled away
- Private Association
- Sediment Test Required by Village -$800
- Village Issued Permit – 15 days

Wooddale, Wisconsin

- 3-acre pond
- To be discharged on site
- Private Association
- Village Issued Permit – 10 days

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Glenview, Illinois – Cobblestone Condominium Association

- Two ½ acre ponds
- Private Association
- Could not find anyone to deal with permits
- Finally, one was granted by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- Time elapsed – 30 days

Most all of Wisconsin ponds that discharge on site – Permits not required

As you can see by the above examples, permits differ from state to state, town to town, and village to village. In most cases, our experience has found that it matters to whom you talk. Some permits are generously granted and easily obtained if you contact the right people. In other incidences, it can be such a nightmare that they are not worth pursuing.

I hope this helps, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call us.

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ORGANIC SEDIMENT REMOVAL SYSTEMS

"A Leader in Pond Restoration since 1991"

Frequently Asked Questions

We are having great success removing nutrient-rich sediment (MUCK), which is the major cause of foul water, and excessive weed and algae growth. This MUCK severely degrades the quality of ponds.

Years ago we finished a project for Underwriter's Laboratories in Northbrook, Illinois. Not only did they like our prices, but they were very impressed with how well our system could target specific problem areas, saving time and money. I guess you could say that we are UL approved.

Here are some answers to the most commonly asked questions. Hope this helps!

Do you service my area?

We service ponds throughout the country.
We are presently franchising throughout the entire U.S.A. and soon to be International.

What size ponds can you clean?

Around 1/16 acre to 10 acres, but we can also target specific areas of much larger lakes.

How often does this have to be done?

Our own personal ponds, which are ¾ acre in size, 15 feet deep, and in a heavily-wooded area, were cleaned 16 years ago. Initially, we were spending an unreasonable amount of money on chemicals, flocculants, aeration equipment, bacteria, etc. in order to control weeds and algae, with limited results. Once we developed this system and cleaned our pond, we spend no more than $100 annually on maintenance. So, depending on how well you maintain your pond after cleaning, it should last 15-20 years.

How does your system work?

The system hydraulically removes the decaying sediment from the bottom of ponds. Any area could be specifically targeted and is incredibly cost-efficient and environmentally friendly.

Will this adversely affect aquatic life and fish?

No. You do not have to relocate any aquatic life.

What do you do with all the sludge that you pump out?

Most people have enough property to discharge on site. If not, we provide other alternatives.

Will this destroy any of my property?

Because of its liquid form, gravity will disperse it evenly among the grass and trees. In addition, it is so nutriently rich that the plants love it and so do the farmers.
If silt containers are used, the area which the silt containers are rested will need to be reseeded.

How far can you pump the sediment?

2,000 feet, depending on grade and elevation.

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Do you come out and inspect the ponds and give estimates?

Only if there is a concern with the discharge area. Even then, I am looking at a pond, which does not tell me much. Only when the divers are down there and the system is in full operation will we know how much sediment has accumulated over the period of time, type, and viscosity of the sediment. With our experience, if I know the size, depth, age, and surrounding foliage, I am usually very accurate of how much time it will take to clean a specific pond or area. The only other concern is the discharge site and 99% of the time we can solve that over the phone.

Do you have to clean the entire pond?

No, we are mainly concerned with the bowl area, which is the deepest part, where the bulk of the sediment has accumulated and making the pond toxic, doing the most environmental damage. As a matter of fact, we serviced a pond which was going to take at least three days, but because of their budget, we only worked one day. The pond cleaned up so well, it was five years later before she called us back to finish the pond, which confirms that any start is a good start.

How much sediment can you remove?

In one pond, we went through 12 feet of organic sediment before we reached the original bottom. Most ponds, however, have an average of 1-3 feet of sediment.

How much does this cost?

Because all ponds are so different and even sediment samples are not really reliable in indicating how much sediment is in the bottom of the ponds, we charge on a daily basis, like time and material. This avoids wasting our clients' time and money on ponds that we finish ahead of schedule. Naturally, a ¼ acre pond with 5 feet of sediment is going to take a lot longer than a ¼ acre pond with 1 foot of sediment, which usually takes us one day. Daily rates are obtained by request.

Why do ponds have to be cleaned?

Mother Nature tries to reclaim all bodies of water. In the deeper water lies the anaerobic bacteria which cannot decompose the onslaught of organic matter. This material slowly builds nutrient rich compost, or natural fertilizer plant, saturating the water with nitrogen, phosphates, sulfur dioxide, methane gases, and the list goes on. This causes excessive algae and weed growth, foul water, and sometimes fish kill. All this dies through the winter, adding and compounding a vicious cycle that builds over time, filling in our ponds.

What about aeration systems?

About 80% of the ponds that we clean have aeration systems, (mine included). After following instructions and $5,800 a year later, I dove to the bottom of my pond and shoved my hand up to my shoulder in solid muck, which was not supposed to be there if aeration systems and bacteria were that effective. That's when I developed our system. I think aeration systems are a big plus to alleviate some of the gases mentioned above from saturating into the water. But as for decomposing sludge from the bottom, my personal experience and others' have had little success. After we clean a pond, I think aeration systems are a great help in keeping a pond cleaner and healthier longer.

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What is the difference between your system and mechanical excavators?

Water is a disadvantage to heavy equipment. A reputable excavator will drain the pond first to ensure that the sediment solidifies to a more manageable and solid form; otherwise, the sediment will just slop around the blade; they will get stuck, and it's a real bear. That is why they charge such an ungodly amount. Check around. The average cost is around $75,000 per acre. To dragline wet, remember the sediment is in a soft liquid state. When the bucket hits the sediment, the sediment explodes in the water, saturating the entire water column, (like a spoon stirring chocolate in milk.) Yes, you will have a deeper pond, because they can remove the hard clays and soils at the bottom when they dig. But when they are finished and the pond settles, you are right back where you started.

Our system uses the water to our advantage. How does this sound? Insert a straw into the chocolate, suck it all up, and your problems are over. No mess, no costly re-landscaping, only efficient and cost-effective results.

After we clean the ponds, we advise you how to take care of your pond afterwards, so you can enjoy a healthy and fruitful pond for years to come. We hope we have answered most of your questions. For any other questions call 1-800-752-8315

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References

Commercial

Meadowbrook Country Club Pat Nora	Racine, WI	262-637-7461
Merit Club John Nelson	Libertyville, IL	847-816-6985
Nakoma Country Club Clark Rowles	Madison, WI	608-238-2033
Heather Ridge Brad Banwart	Gurnee, IL	847-710-2378
Goodmark Nursery Mike Scheitz	Wonderlake, IL	815-653-9293
Sierra Mills Homeowners Assoc. Don Schneider	Batavia, IL	630-406-9890
Willowgate Subdivision Andrea Sorgani	St. Charles, IL	847-517-4400
Kemper Lake Golf Club Dan Tully	Hawthorn Woods, IL	847-540-7209
Minikahda Golf Club Jeff Johnson	Minneapolis, MN	612-926-1601
Twin Lakes Golf Club Keith Johnson	Westmont, IL	630-960-9140
Big Foot Country Club Jim Nolte	Walworth, WI	262-275-5101
Brae Loch Golf Club Mark Pettigoue	Grayslake, IL	847-746-5024
Evanston Golf Club Daniel Charlton	Skokie, IL	847-676-9593
Indian Hill Country Club Daniel Schlagetter	Winnetka, IL	847-528-6656
River Oaks Country Club Bryan Stromme	Huntley, IL	847-961-5155

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Wynstone County Club Curtis James	North Barrington, IL	224-392-3974
Knollwood Golf Course Randy Wahler	Lake Forest, IL	847-284-1340
Eaglewood Resort Ben Exline	Itasca, IL	630-467-0739
New Berlin Hills Golf Course Joel Peterson	New Berlin, WI	262-780-5204
Stonehenge Golf Club Joe Scafer	Barrington, IL	847-381-8600
Lake Ridge Club Association Mike Keller	Burr Ridge, IL	630-408-5941
Oak and Dale Properties Katie Johnson	Hinsdale, IL	630-323-8810
Mount Prospect Park District Fred Behnke	Mt. Prospect, IL	847-814-3585
Village of Bloomingdale Bob Prohaska	Bloomingdale, IL	630-688-8473
Heather Ridge Umbrella Brad Banwart	Gurnee, IL	847-367-6016
Lake County Forest Preserve Debbie Mauer	Grayslake, IL	847-968-3285
Lake County DNR Brad Semmel	Spring Grove, IL	815-675-2386
JaNelle Merry Wetland Specialist	Green Bay, WI	800-576-2476
Robert Rosenberger DNR	Peshtigo, WI	715-582-5041
Jim Rixie (Underwriter's Lab)	Northbrook, IL	847-664-2103 (work)
Jim Evans (Turnberry Country Club)	Lakewood, IL	815-790-8350 (work)
Mike Vercautren (Butterfield Co. Club)	Oak Brook, IL	630-323-2734 (work)

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Lois Rodlisky (Hill's Homeowner's)	Palos Hills, IL.	708-599-7396 (home) 708-837-7510 (cell)
Rob Burns (Roselle Park District)	Roselle, IL	630-980-2020 (work)
Ken Holthaus (Midwest Irrigation)	East Dubuque, IL	815-747-3359 (work)
Hal Weibel (Summer Field Assoc.)	Lake Forest, IL	847-234-4946 (work)
Jim(Cobblestone Condominiums)	Glenview, I	847-296-2402 (work)
Jean Collins (Evergreen Homeowner's)	Lake Forest, IL	847-234-7686 (home)
Davie Esau (Timbers in Palos)	Palos Hills, IL	708-974-4386 (work)
Jerry Kershasky (Westmoor Golf Club)	Brookfield, WI	262-894-0399 (cell)
Bruce McClaren	Hinsdale, IL	920-847-2684 (work)
Bill Ryan (Ryan & Assoc. Law Firm)	Hinsdale, IL	312-236-1386 (work)
Brad (Heather Ridge Country Club)	Gurnee, IL	847-816- 9300 (work)
Doug DeVries (Reid Golf Course)	Appleton, WI.	920-832-5927 (office)
Mike Sauls (Butler National Golf Course)	Oak Brook, IL.	630-990-3340 (work)
Jim Hugunin (Land O'Lakes Tackle)	Oswego, IL	630-240-0487 (work)
Gary Wendt(Brandtwood Lake Assoc.)	Glendale, WI	414-352-5118 (work)
Dutch Lundy (Lake Forest Park District)	Lake Forest, IL	847-615-4320 (work)
Karen Gaeta(Campground)	Marengo, IL	815-923-2278 (work)
Nick Gowe (Aquatic Biologist) (Scientific Aquatic Weed Control)	Gurnee, IL	847-662-5370 (work) 847-533-4772 (cell)
Rich Rollins (Aquatiac Biologist) (Aquatic Weed Technology)	Roselle, IL	630-893-0810 (work)
Mike Perkaus (Aquatic Biologist) (Aquatic Ecosystems)	Golf, IL	847-724-0646 (work)
Kevin Dahm (Aquatic Biologist)	Algonquin, IL	847-960-7252 (work)

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References

Residential

Dennis Dryja	Fondulac, WI	920-923-1169
Dr. John Fornetti	Iron Mt., MI	906-774-2452
Jim LaLuzerne	DePere, WI	920-336-3800
Craig Smith	Waupaca, WI	715-258-7583
Gerald Konz	Racine, WI	262-554-7796
Tom Payonk	Antioch, WI	847-838-4132
Tim Hill	Big Bend, WI	262-662-3960
Patrick Meyers	Hilbert, WI	920-989-1875
Bob Schottmuellller	Sturgeon Bay, WI	920-788-5451
John Navis	Mauston, WI	608-847-4445
George Burlingame	Fort Atkinson, WI	920-563-6005
Pine Apple Farms (Terry Zeman)	Harvard, IL	773-792-2515 ext.14
Paul Van Laanen	Iron River, MI	920-865-7152
Charles Hall	Eleva, WI	715-946-3564
Carl Latz	Elkhorn, WI	262-742-3947
Verne Netzow	Oconomowoc, WI	414-507-3738
Bruce McDowell	Minocqua, WI	715-356-1578
John Schumann	West Bend, WI	262-677-2237
Robert Bolz	Madison, WI	608-576-2337
Dan Deufel	Aurora, IL	630-896-1951
Jack Janssen	Rockford, IL	815-964-4381

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Michael and Marilyn Keller	Allenton, WI	262-629-5461
Howard Buckman	Hartford, WI	920-563-5720
Fred Schoenfeld	West Chicago	630-896-1523
Robert Denaro	Long Grove, IL	847-726-9003
Scott Freitag	Montello, WI	920-295-8753
Heidi and John Dohmen	Cedarburg, WI	262-375-2338
Jim McLean	Aurora, IL	630-801-7641
Bonnie Weidmeyer	Theresa, WI	262-629-5966
Dan Kupsh	Cato, WI	920-732-3610
Jim Wallace	Wisconsin	920-668-6182
Rich Gregie	Oswego, IL	630-554-5253
George Sandstrom	Burlington, WI	414-763-9302
Eleanor Pick	Barrington, IL	847-428-5287
Richard Bushey	East Troy, WI	414-642-5572
Gerald Mikkelson	Antigo, WI	715-623-6817
Thomas Tate	Abrams, WI	920-826-2446
Mark Vuskallia	Milwaukee, WI	414-351-1085
Ron Cimarole	Portage, WI	608-742-1682 608-742-2238 Work
Carol Bydynkowski	Iola, WI	715-445-2997
Jim Krueger	Appleton, WI	920-734-0378
Jay Neurenhausen	Oshkosh, WI	920-589-2103

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Randy Steingraber	Manawa, WI	920-596-3607
Dick Ashenbrener	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	715-421-0272 715-422-3152 Work
Percy Clout	Ft. Atkinson, WI	414-563-9571 Work
Wendy McCalvy	Racine, WI	414-639-5749
Fran Scheunemann	Cedarburg, WI	414-675-2276
Larry Filo	Campbellsport, WI	414-533-8109
Fritz Hausmann	Madison, WI	608-255-8262
George Parker	Janesville, WI	608-754-9002 Work
Judy Wegner	Germantown, WI	414-628-9568
Duke Potter	Lake Geneva, WI	414-248-1157 414-248-3559 Work
T.W. Norris	Poy Sippi, WI	414-987-5217
Stuart Parsons	Cedarburg, WI	414-377-6685
Helen Zuelke	Kewaskum, WI	414-626-2345
Bill Stange	Lake Geneva, WI	414-537-2916

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Rich,
I took these from my breezy. Thank you again. If you ever want to use us for a referral, go ahead.
Have a good day.
John & Terry Thompson, Rockford, IL

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OSR FAQ's

What size ponds can you clean?
Around 1/16 acre to 10 acres, but we can also target specific areas of much larger lakes.

How often does this have to be done?
Our own personal ponds, which are ••• acre in size, 15 feet deep, and in a heavily-wooded area, were cleaned 16 years ago. Initially, we were spending an unreasonable amount of money on chemicals, flocculants, aeration equipment, bacteria, etc. in order to control weeds and algae, with limited results. Once we developed this system and cleaned our pond, we spend no more than $100 annually on maintenance. So, depending on how well you maintain your pond after cleaning, it should last 15-20 years.

How does your system work?
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Will this adversely affect aquatic life and fish?
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ORDINANCE NO. 2015-___ (O)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26, PARKS AND OPEN AREAS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WINDCREST, TEXAS BY PROHIBITING FISHING IN PONDS OR LAKES IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Windcrest desires to prohibit fishing in ponds or lakes in the city in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINDCREST, TEXAS that, Chapter 26, Parks and Open Areas, Article III, Public Conduct in Parks and Open Areas, Section 26-61, Swimming, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Windcrest, Texas is hereby amended to read as follows:

"**Sec. 26-61. – Fishing and Swimming**

No person shall fish, swim or wade in ponds or lakes in a city park area."

That, this Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after its publication.

PASSED AND APPROVED, on the ____ day of _____, 2015 at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Windcrest, Texas which meeting was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Tex. Gov't Code, §551.001, et.seq. at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

_____
Alan Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Kelly Rodriguez, City Secretary

APPOVED:

_____
Michael S. Brenan, City Attorney