

Section 3.11 Storage Practices

Definition: Storage practices are explicitly designed to provide stormwater detention (2-year, 15-year, and/or flood control). Design variants include:

- S-1 underground detention vaults and tanks
- S-2 dry detention pond
- S-3 rooftop storage
- S-4 stone storage under permeable pavement or other BMPs

Detention vaults are box-shaped underground stormwater storage facilities typically constructed with reinforced concrete. Detention tanks are underground storage facilities typically constructed with large diameter metal or plastic pipe. Both serve as an alternative to surface dry detention for stormwater quantity control, particularly for space-limited areas where there is not adequate land for a dry detention basin or multi-purpose detention area. Prefabricated concrete vaults are available from commercial vendors. In addition, several pipe manufacturers have developed packaged detention systems.

Dry detention ponds are widely applicable for most land uses and are best suited for larger drainage areas. An outlet structure restricts stormwater flow so it backs up and is stored within the basin. The temporary ponding reduces the maximum peak discharge to the downstream channel, thereby reducing the effective shear stress on the bed and banks of the receiving stream.

Storage practices do not receive any stormwater retention or treatment volume and **should be considered only for management of larger storm events**. Storage practices are not considered an acceptable practice to meet the SWRV. Storage practices must generally be combined with a separate facility to meet these requirements. Upland practices can be used to satisfy some or all of the stormwater retention requirements at many sites, which can help to reduce the footprint and volume of storage practices.

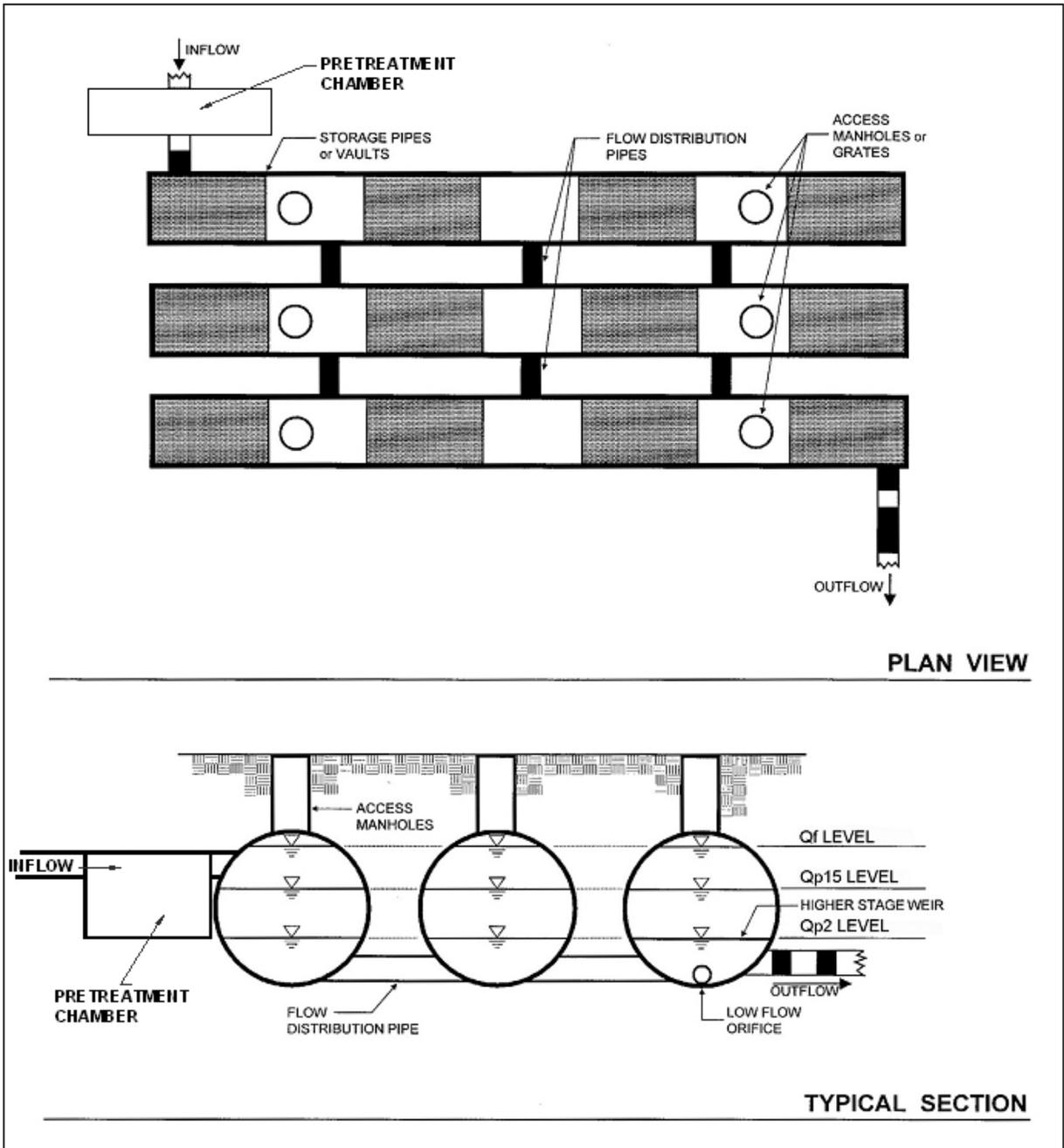


Figure 3.11.1. Example of an underground detention vault and/or tank (S-1).

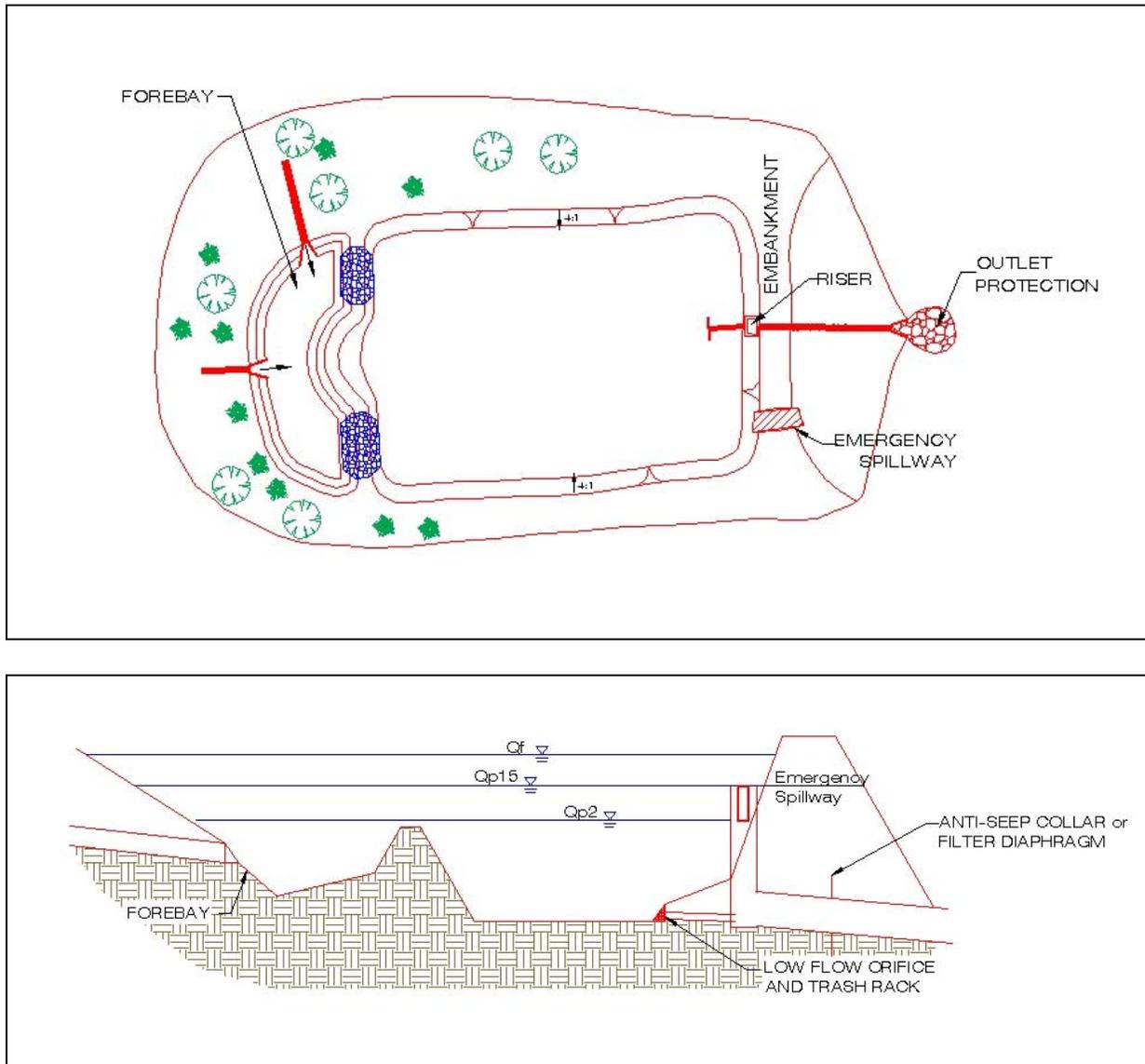


Figure 3.11.2. Example of a Dry Detention Pond (S-2).

3.11.1 Storage Feasibility Criteria

The following feasibility issues need to be evaluated when storage practices are considered as the final practice in a treatment train:

Space Required. A typical storage practices requires a footprint of 1% to 3% of its contributing drainage area, depending on the depth of the pond or storage vault (i.e., the deeper the practice, the smaller footprint needed).

Contributing Drainage Area. A contributing drainage area of at least 10 acres is preferred for dry ponds in order to keep the required orifice size from becoming a maintenance problem. Designers should be aware that small “pocket” ponds will typically (1) have very small orifices that will be prone to clogging, (2) experience fluctuating water levels such that proper stabilization with vegetation is very difficult, and (3) generate more significant maintenance problems.

Underground detention systems can be located downstream of other structural stormwater controls providing treatment of the design storm. For treatment train designs where upland practices are utilized for treatment of the SWRV, designers can use a site-adjusted R_v or CN that reflects the volume reduction of upland practices and likely reduce the size and cost of detention (see *Section 3.11.4. Storage Practice Sizing*).

The maximum contributing drainage area to be served by a single underground detention vault or tank is 25 acres.

Available Hydraulic Head. The depth of a storage practice is usually determined by the amount of hydraulic head available at the site (dimension between the surface drainage and the bottom elevation of the site). The bottom elevation is normally the invert of the existing downstream conveyance system to which the storage practice discharges. Depending on the size of the development and the available surface area of the basin, as much as 6 to 8 feet of hydraulic head may be needed for a dry detention practice to function properly for storage. An underground storage practice will require sufficient head room to facilitate maintenance – at least 5 feet depending on the design configuration.

Minimum Setbacks. Office of Planning zoning requirements should be consulted to determine minimum setbacks to property lines and structures. Consideration of public space rules and review process, as prescribed and enforced by the District Department of Transportation, may be required. Generally, storage practices should be set back at least 10 feet from property lines, and 20 feet down-gradient from building foundations.

Depth-to-Water Table and Bedrock. Dry ponds are not allowed if the water table or bedrock will be within 2 feet of the floor of the pond. For underground detention facilities, an anti-flotation analysis is required to check for buoyancy problems in the high water table areas.

Soils. The permeability of soils is seldom a design constraint for storage practices. Soil infiltration tests should be conducted at proposed dry pond sites to estimate infiltration rates and patterns, which can be significant in Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) A soils and some group B soils. Infiltration through the bottom of the pond is typically encouraged unless it may potentially migrate laterally through a soil layer and impair the integrity of the embankment or other structure.

Structural Stability. Underground detention vaults and tanks must meet structural requirements for overburden support and traffic loading if appropriate as verified by shop drawings signed by an appropriately licensed professional.

Geotechnical Tests. At least one soil boring must be taken at a low point within the footprint of any proposed storage practice to establish the water table and bedrock elevations and evaluate soil suitability. A geotechnical investigation is required for all underground BMPs, including underground storage systems. Geotechnical testing requirements are outlined in *Appendix P*.

Utilities. For a dry pond system, no utility lines shall be permitted to cross any part of the embankment where the design water depth is greater than 2 feet. Typically, utilities require a minimum 5' horizontal clearance from storage facilities.

Perennial Streams. Locating dry ponds on perennial streams will require both a Section 401 and Section 404 permit from the appropriate state or federal regulatory agency.

3.11.2 Storage Conveyance Criteria

Designers must use accepted hydrologic and hydraulic routing calculations to determine the required storage volume and an appropriate outlet design for storage practices. See *Section 2.5. Hydrology Methods* for a summary of acceptable hydrological methodologies and models.

For management of the 2-year storm, a control structure with a trash rack designed to release the required pre-development Q_{p2} must be provided. Ideally, the channel protection orifice should have a minimum diameter of 3 inches in order to pass minor trash and debris. However, where smaller orifices are required, the orifice should be adequately protected from clogging by an acceptable external trash rack.

As an alternative, the orifice diameter may be reduced if internal orifice protection is used (i.e., a perforated vertical stand pipe with 0.5-inch orifices or slots that are protected by wirecloth and a stone filtering jacket). Adjustable gate valves, weir manholes, and other structures designed for simple maintenance can also be used to achieve this equivalent diameter.

For overbank flood protection, an additional outlet is sized for Q_{p15} control and can consist of a weir, orifice, outlet pipe, combination outlet, or other acceptable control structure.

Riprap, plunge pools or pads, or other energy dissipaters are to be placed at the end of the outlet to prevent scouring and erosion and to provide a non-erosive velocity of flow from the structure to a water course. The design must specify an outfall that will be stable for the 15-year design storm event. The channel immediately below the storage practice outfall must be modified to prevent erosion. This is typically done by calculating channel velocities and flow depths, then placing appropriately sized riprap, over filter fabric, which can reduce flow velocities from the principal spillway to non-erosive levels (3.5 to 5.0 fps depending on the channel lining material). The storage practice geometry and outfall design may need to be altered in order to yield adequate channel velocities and flow.

Flared pipe sections that discharge at or near the stream invert or into a step pool arrangement should be used at the spillway outlet. An outfall analysis shall be included in the stormwater management plan showing discharge velocities down to the nearest downstream water course. Where indicated, the developer / contractor must secure an off-site drainage easement for any improvements to the downstream channel.

When the discharge is to a manmade pipe or channel system, the system must be adequate to convey the required design storm peak discharge.

If discharge daylight to a channel with dry weather flow, care should be taken to minimize tree clearing along the downstream channel, and to reestablish a forested riparian zone in the shortest possible distance. Excessive use of rip-rap should be avoided.

The final release rate of the facility shall be modified if any increase in flooding or stream channel erosion would result at a downstream structure, highway, or natural point of restricted streamflow (see *Section 2.4 Additional Stormwater Management Requirements*).

The following **additional** conveyance criteria apply to underground detention:

- An internal or external high flow bypass or overflow should be included in the underground detention designs to safely pass the extreme flood flow.

The following **additional** conveyance criteria apply to dry ponds:

- **Primary Spillway.** The primary spillway shall be designed with acceptable anti-flotation, anti-vortex, and trash rack devices. The spillway must generally be accessible from dry land. When reinforced concrete pipe is used for the principal spillway to increase its longevity, “O”-ring gaskets (ASTM C-361) should be used to create watertight joints, and they should be inspected during installation.
- The risk of clogging in outlet pipes with small orifices can be reduced by:
 - Providing a micropool at the outlet structure. For more information on micropool extended detention ponds see *Section 3.9. Ponds*.

- Installing a trash rack to screen the low-flow orifice.
- Using a perforated pipe under a gravel blanket with an orifice control at the end in the riser structure.
- **Emergency Spillway.** Dry ponds must be constructed with overflow capacity to safely pass the 100-year design storm event through either the primary spillway or a vegetated or armored emergency spillway unless waived by DDOE.
- **Inlet Protection.** Inflow points into dry pond systems should be stabilized to ensure that non-erosive conditions exist during storm events up to the overbank flood event (i.e., the 15-year storm event).

3.11.3 Storage Pretreatment Criteria

Dry Pond Pretreatment Forebay. A forebay must be located at each major inlet to a dry pond to trap sediment and preserve the capacity of the main treatment cell. The following criteria apply to dry pond forebay design:

- A major inlet is defined as an individual storm drain inlet pipe or open channel serving at least 10% of the storage practice's contributing drainage area.
- The forebay consists of a separate cell, formed by an acceptable barrier. (e.g., an earthen berm, concrete weir, gabion baskets, etc.).
- The forebay shall be sized to contain 0.1 inches per impervious acre of contributing drainage. The relative size of individual forebays should be proportional to the percentage of the total inflow to the dry pond.
- The forebay should be designed in such a manner that it acts as a level spreader to distribute runoff evenly across the entire bottom surface area of the main storage cell.
- Exit velocities from the forebay shall be non-erosive or an armored overflow shall be provided. Non-erosive velocities are 4 feet per second for the two-year event, and 6 feet per second for the 15-year event.
- The bottom of the forebay may be hardened (e.g., concrete, asphalt, or grouted riprap) in order to make sediment removal easier.
- Direct maintenance access for appropriate equipment shall be provided to the each forebay

Underground Detention Pretreatment. A pretreatment structure to capture sediment, coarse trash and debris should be placed upstream of any inflow points to underground detention. A separate sediment sump or vault chamber sized to capture 0.1 inches per impervious acre of contributing drainage should be provided at the inlet for underground detention systems that are in a treatment train with off-line water quality treatment structural controls.

3.11.4 Storage Design Criteria

Dry Pond Internal Design Features. The following apply to dry pond design:

- **No Pilot Channels.** Dry ponds shall not have a low flow pilot channel, but instead must be constructed in a manner whereby flows are evenly distributed across the pond bottom, to

avoid scour, promote attenuation and, where possible, infiltration

- **Internal Slope.** The maximum longitudinal slope through the pond should be approximately 0.5% to 1%.
- **Side Slopes.** Side slopes within the dry pond should generally have a gradient of 3H:1V to 4H:1V. The mild slopes promote better establishment and growth of vegetation and provide for easier maintenance and a more natural appearance. Ponds with side slopes steeper than 5H:1V must be fenced and include a lockable gate.
- **Long Flow Path.** Dry pond designs should have an irregular shape and a long flow path distance from inlet to outlet to increase water residence time, treatment pathways, pond performance, and to eliminate short-cutting. In terms of flow path geometry, there are two design considerations: (1) the overall flow path through the pond, and (2) the length of the shortest flow path (Hirschman et al., 2009):
 - The *overall flow path* can be represented as the length-to-width ratio *OR* the flow path ratio. These ratios must be at least 2L:1W (3L:1W preferred). Internal berms, baffles, or topography can be used to extend flow paths and/or create multiple pond cells.
 - The *shortest flow path* represents the distance from the closest inlet to the outlet. The ratio of the shortest flow to the overall length must be at least 0.4. In some cases – due to site geometry, storm sewer infrastructure, or other factors – some inlets may not be able to meet these ratios. However, the drainage area served by these “closer” inlets should constitute no more than 20% of the total contributing drainage area.

Safety Features. The following safety features should be considered for storage practices:

- The principal spillway opening must be designed and constructed to prevent access by small children.
- End walls above pipe outfalls greater than 48 inches in diameter must be fenced at the top of the wall to prevent a falling hazard.
- Storage practices should incorporate an additional 1 foot of freeboard above the emergency spillway, or 2 feet of freeboard if design has no emergency spillway, for the maximum Q_f design storm unless more stringent Dam Safety requirements apply.
- The emergency spillway must be located so that downstream structures will not be impacted by spillway discharges
- Underground maintenance access should be locked at all times.

Maintenance Access. All storage practices shall be designed so as to be accessible to annual maintenance. Unless waived by the DDOE, a 5:1 slope and 15 foot wide entrance ramp is required for maintenance access to dry ponds. Adequate maintenance access must also be provided for all underground detention systems. Access must be provided over the inlet pipe and outflow structure with access steps. Access openings can consist of a standard 30” diameter frame, grate and solid cover, or a hinged door or removable panel.

Outlets. Trash racks shall be provided for low-flow pipes and for risers not having anti-vortex devices.

In order to reduce maintenance problems for small orifices, a standpipe design can be used that includes a smaller inner standpipe with the required orifice size, surrounded by a larger standpipe with multiple openings, and a gravel jacket surrounding the larger standpipe. This design will reduce the likelihood of the orifice being clogged by sediment.

Detention Vault and Tank Materials: Underground stormwater detention structures shall be composed of materials as approved by the DDOE. All construction joints and pipe joints shall be water tight. Cast-in-place wall sections must be designed as retaining walls. The maximum depth from finished grade to the vault invert should be 20 feet. The minimum pipe diameter for underground detention tanks is 60 inches unless otherwise approved by the District. Manufacturer's specifications should be consulted for underground detention structures.

Anti-floatation Analysis for Underground Detention: Anti-floatation analysis is required to check for buoyancy problems in the high water table areas. Anchors shall be designed to counter the pipe and structure buoyancy by at least a 1.2 factor of safety.

Storage Practice Sizing. Storage facilities should be sized to control peak flow rates from the 2-year and 15-year frequency storm event or other design storm. Design calculations must ensure that the post-development peak discharge does not exceed the pre-development peak discharge. See *Section 2.5. Hydrology Methods* for a summary of acceptable hydrological methodologies and models.

For treatment train designs where upland practices are utilized for treatment of the SWR_v, designers can use a site-adjusted R_v or CN that reflects the volume reduction of upland practices to compute the Q_{p2} and Q_{p15} that must be treated by the storage practice.

3.11.5 Storage Landscaping Criteria

No landscaping criteria apply to underground storage practices.

For dry ponds, a landscaping plan must be provided that indicates the methods used to establish and maintain vegetative coverage within the dry pond. Minimum elements of a plan include the following:

- Delineation of pondscaping zones within the pond
- Selection of corresponding plant species
- The planting plan
- The sequence for preparing the wetland bed, if one is incorporated with the Dry pond (including soil amendments, if needed)

- Sources of native plant material
- The planting plan should allow the pond to mature into a native forest in the right places, but yet keep mowable turf along the embankment and all access areas. The wooded wetland concept proposed by Cappiella *et al.*, (2005) may be a good option for many dry ponds.
- Woody vegetation may not be planted or allowed to grow within 15 feet of the toe of the embankment nor within 25 feet from the principal spillway structure.
- Avoid species that require full shade, or are prone to wind damage.

Section 3.11.6 Storage Construction Sequence

Construction of underground storage systems must be in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All runoff into the system should be blocked until the site is stabilized. The system must be inspected and cleaned of sediment after the site is stabilized.

The following is a typical construction sequence to properly install a dry pond. The steps may be modified to reflect different dry pond designs, site conditions, and the size, complexity and configuration of the proposed facility.

Step 1: Use of Dry Pond for Erosion and Sediment Control. A dry pond may serve as a sediment basin during project construction. If this is done, the volume should be based on the more stringent sizing rule (erosion and sediment control requirement vs. water quality treatment requirement). Installation of the permanent riser should be initiated during the construction phase, and design elevations should be set with final cleanout of the sediment basin and conversion to the post-construction dry pond in mind. The bottom elevation of the dry pond should be lower than the bottom elevation of the temporary sediment basin. Appropriate procedures should be implemented to prevent discharge of turbid waters when the basin is being converted into a dry pond.

Step 2: Stabilize the Drainage Area. Dry ponds should only be constructed after the contributing drainage area to the pond is completely stabilized. If the propose dry pond site will be used as a sediment trap or basin during the construction phase, the construction notes should clearly indicate that the facility will be dewatered, dredged and re-graded to design dimensions after the original site construction is complete.

Step 3: Assemble Construction Materials on-site, make sure they meet design specifications, and prepare any staging areas.

Step 4: Clear and Strip the project area to the desired sub-grade.

Step 5: Install Erosion and Sediment Controls prior to construction, including temporary dewatering devices and stormwater diversion practices. All areas surrounding the pond that are graded or denuded during construction must be planted with turf grass, native plantings, or other approved

methods of soil stabilization.

Step 6: Install the Spillway Pipe.

Step 7: Install the Riser or Outflow Structure and ensure the top invert of the overflow weir is constructed level at the design elevation.

Step 8: Construct the Embankment and any Internal Berms in 8 to 12-inch lifts and compact the lifts with appropriate equipment.

Step 9: Excavate/Grade until the appropriate elevation and desired contours are achieved for the bottom and side slopes of the dry pond.

Step 10: Construct the Emergency Spillway in cut or structurally stabilized soils.

Step 11: Install Outlet Pipes, including downstream rip-rap apron protection.

Step 12: Stabilize Exposed Soils All areas above the normal pool elevation should be permanently stabilized by hydroseeding or seeding over straw.

Dry Pond Construction Inspection. Multiple inspections are critical to ensure that stormwater ponds are properly constructed. Inspections are recommended during the following stages of construction:

- Pre-construction meeting
- Initial site preparation (including installation of E&S controls)
- Excavation/Grading (interim and final elevations)
- Installation of the embankment, the riser/primary spillway, and the outlet structure
- Implementation of the pondscaping plan and vegetative stabilization
- Final inspection (develop a punchlist for facility acceptance)

A construction phase inspection checklist for Storage Practices is available in ***Appendix L***.

If the dry pond has a permanent pool, then to facilitate maintenance the contractor should measure the actual constructed dry pond depth at three areas within the permanent pool (forebay, mid-pond and at the riser), and they should mark and geo-reference them on an as-built drawing. This simple data set will enable maintenance inspectors to determine pond sediment deposition rates in order to schedule sediment cleanouts.

3.11.6 Storage Maintenance Criteria

Typical maintenance activities for storage practices are outlined in **Table 3.11.1**. Maintenance requirements for underground storage facilities will generally require quarterly visual inspections

from the manhole access points to verify that there is no standing water or excessive sediment buildup. Entry into the system for a full inspection of the system components (pipe or vault joints, general structural soundness, etc.) should be conducted annually. Confined space entry credentials are typically required for this inspection.

Table 3.11.1. Typical maintenance activities for storage practices

Maintenance Activity	Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water dry pond side slopes to promote vegetation growth and survival 	As needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove sediment and oil/grease from inlets, pre-treatment devices, flow diversion structures, storage practices and overflow structures. • Ensure that the contributing drainage area, inlets, and facility surface are clear of debris. • Ensure that the contributing drainage area is stabilized. Perform spot-reseeding where needed. • Repair undercut and eroded areas at inflow and outflow structures. 	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure sediment accumulation levels in forebay. Remove sediment when 50% of the forebay capacity has been lost. • Inspect the condition of stormwater inlets for material damage, erosion or undercutting. Repair as necessary. • Inspect the banks of upstream and downstream channels for evidence of sloughing, animal burrows, boggy areas, woody growth, or gully erosion that may undermine pond embankment integrity. • Inspect outfall channels for erosion, undercutting, rip-rap displacement, woody growth, etc. • Inspect condition of principal spillway and riser for evidence of spalling, joint failure, leakage, corrosion, etc. • Inspect condition of all trash racks, reverse sloped pipes or flashboard risers for evidence of clogging, leakage, debris accumulation, etc. • Inspect maintenance access to ensure it is free of debris or woody vegetation, and check to see whether valves, manholes and locks can be opened and operated. • Inspect internal and external side slopes of dry ponds for evidence of sparse vegetative cover, erosion, or slumping, and make needed repairs immediately. • Monitor the growth of wetlands, trees and shrubs planted in dry ponds. Remove invasive species and replant vegetation where necessary to ensure dense coverage. 	Annual inspection

Maintenance of storage practices is driven by annual inspections that evaluate the condition and performance of the storage practice. Based on inspection results, specific maintenance tasks will be triggered. Example maintenance inspection checklists for Extended Detention Ponds can be found in *Appendix M*.

A declaration of covenants that includes all maintenance responsibilities to ensure the continued stormwater performance for the BMP is required. The declaration of covenants specifies the property owner’s primary maintenance responsibilities, and authorizes DDOE staff to access the property for inspection or corrective action in the event the proper maintenance is not performed. The declaration of covenants is attached to the deed of the property. An example form is provided at the end of Chapter 5 though variations will exist for scenarios where stormwater crosses property

lines. The covenant is between the property and the District Government. It is submitted through the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). All SWMPs have a maintenance agreement stamp that must be signed for a building permit to proceed. A maintenance schedule must appear on the SWMP. Additionally, a maintenance schedule is required in schedule c of the declaration of covenants.

Covenants are not required on government properties, but maintenance responsibilities must be defined through a partnership agreement or a memorandum of understanding.

Waste material from the repair, maintenance, or removal of a BMP or land cover change shall be removed, and the maintenance contractor shall submit a written report to DDOE within forty-eight (48) hours after disposing of the waste material. The report shall include:

- (a) The name, address, phone number, and business license number of the contractor transporting the waste materials;
- (b) Date of removal;
- (c) The address of the BMP;
- (d) Type of BMP serviced;
- (e) Amount and type of waste material removed;
- (f) The name and location of the facility where the waste material was disposed of; and
- (g) A sworn statement that disposal was in compliance with applicable federal and District law.

3.11.7 Storage Volume Compliance Calculations

Storage practices receive no retention value and no pollutant removal for the storage volume (Sv) provided by the practice (**Table 3.11.2**). These practices should be used only for control of larger storm events.

Table 3.11.2. Storage Retention Value and Pollutant Removal

Retention Value	= 0
Additional Pollutant Removal	0% TSS load reduction

3.11.8 References

Cappiella, K., Schueler, T., and T. Wright. 2005. *Urban Watershed Forestry Manual. Part 1: Methods for Increasing Forest Cover in a Watershed*. NA-TP-04-05. USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. Newtown Square, PA.

Hirschman, D., L. Woodworth and S. Drescher. 2009. *Technical Report: Stormwater BMPs in Virginia's James River Basin: An Assessment of Field Conditions & Programs*. Center for

Watershed Protection. Ellicott City, MD.

Virginia DCR Stormwater Design Specification No. 15: Extended Detention (ED) Pond Version 1.8.
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