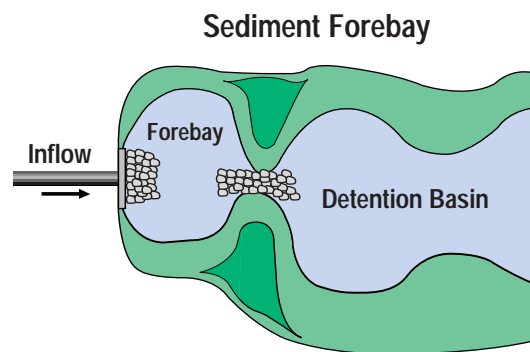


To overcome the shortcomings of traditional stormwater basin designs, municipalities should...

- Naturalize existing basins under municipal ownership.
- Revise ordinances to encourage naturalizing basin plantings in all new detention basins.
- Educate landowners that maintain private stormwater basins about naturalizing techniques.

There are other methods to enhance existing stormwater basins; when combined with naturalizing techniques, they can further improve water quality.

- Removing concrete low flow channels helps to decrease water temperatures and allows for more infiltration.
- Retrofitting or altering outlet structures so that runoff from smaller storms is held in the basin longer allows for further settling of pollutants.
- Adding sediment forebays to basins improves water quality. These forebays collect debris and other pollutants and allow easier maintenance.



A more comprehensive approach to improving stormwater resources and water quality can be achieved if a municipality also:

- Adopts ordinances that encourage infiltrating stormwater, improving water quality and incorporating best management practices into site design.
- Partners with neighboring communities, especially those within the same watershed, to promote consistent environmental protection ordinances.
- Sets and follows through with goals to preserve floodplain, wetland and streamside areas from development.
- Creates recreational greenways and trails along streams.

Beyond municipal activities to improve stormwater basins and stormwater resources, we can all be good stewards of the environment by...

- Reducing lawn areas in our yards by planting native flowers, trees and shrubs. Doing so will allow for more stormwater to infiltrate into the ground and will save both time and money in long-term maintenance.
- Using a rain barrel to collect water from gutters and downspouts. This practice decreases runoff from your property, provides a watering source even in times of drought and saves money.
- Planting trees and shrubs along streamside property. Vegetated streambanks help prevent erosion, increase stormwater quality and reduce flooding.
- Gardening organically. Or, at least reduce the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Overuse of these chemicals pollutes stormwater and local streams.

For more information on naturalizing existing stormwater basins or these other enhancement techniques, call:

- Lower Providence Township**
610-539-8020
- Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy**
610-287-9383
- Montgomery County Planning Commission**
610-278-3722
- Philadelphia Suburban Water Company**
610-525-1400

Or check out these websites:

- www.pvwatershed.org
- www.montcopa.org/plancom
- www.greenworks.tv/stormwater

Financed in part by a Growing Greener Grant provided by PA DEP. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of DEP.

**Improving
Stormwater
Basins,
Naturally**

