

## Description

An extended detention basin (EDB) is a sedimentation basin designed to detain stormwater for many hours after storm runoff ends. This BMP is similar to a detention basin used for flood control, however; the EDB uses a much smaller outlet that extends the emptying time of the more frequently occurring runoff events to facilitate pollutant removal. The EDB's 40-hour drain time for the water quality capture volume (WQCV) is recommended to remove a significant portion of total suspended solids (TSS). Soluble pollutant removal is enhanced by providing a small wetland marsh or "micropool" at the outlet to promote biological uptake. The basins are sometimes called "dry ponds" because they are designed not to have a significant permanent pool of water remaining between storm runoff events.



**Photograph EDB-1:** This EDB includes a concrete trickle channel and a micropool with a concrete bottom and grouted boulder sideslopes. The vegetation growing in the sediment of the micropool adds to the natural look of this facility and ties into the surrounding landscape.

## Site Selection

EDBs are well suited for watersheds with at least five impervious acres up to approximately one square mile of watershed. Smaller watersheds can result in an orifice size prone to clogging. Larger watersheds and watersheds with baseflows can complicate the design and reduce the level of treatment provided. EDBs are also well suited where flood detention is incorporated into the same basin. The depth of groundwater should be investigated. Groundwater depth should be 2 or more feet below the bottom of the basin in order to keep this area dry and maintainable.

Extended Detention Basin	
<b>Functions</b>	
LID/Volume Red.	Somewhat
WQCV Capture	Yes
WQCV+Flood Control	Yes
Fact Sheet Includes EURV Guidance	Yes
<b>Typical Effectiveness for Targeted Pollutants<sup>3</sup></b>	
Sediment/Solids	Good
Nutrients	Moderate
Total Metals	Moderate
Bacteria	Poor
<b>Other Considerations</b>	
Life-cycle Costs <sup>4</sup>	Moderate
<sup>3</sup> Based primarily on data from the International Stormwater BMP Database ( <a href="http://www.bmpdatabase.org">www.bmpdatabase.org</a> ).	
<sup>4</sup> Based primarily on BMP-REALCOST available at <a href="http://www.udfcd.org">www.udfcd.org</a> . Analysis based on a single installation (not based on the maximum recommended watershed tributary to each BMP).	

## Designing for Maintenance

Recommended maintenance practices for all BMPs are provided in the BMP Maintenance chapter of this manual. During design, the following should be considered to ensure ease of maintenance over the long-term:

- Always provide a micropool (see step 7).
- Provide a design slope of at least 3% in the vegetated bottom of the basin (either toward the trickle channel or toward the micropool). This will help maintain the appearance of the turf grass in the bottom of the basin and reduce the possibility of saturated areas that may produce unwanted species of vegetation and mosquito breeding conditions. Verify slopes during construction, prior to vegetation.
- Follow trash rack sizing recommendations to determine the minimum area for the trash rack (see design step 9).
- Provide adequate initial surcharge volume for frequent inundation (see design step 3).
- Provide stabilized access to the forebay, outlet, spillway, and micropool for maintenance purposes.
- Provide access to the well screen. The well screen requires maintenance more often than any other EDB component. Ensure that the screen can be reached from a point outside of the micropool. When the well screen is located inside the outlet structure, provide an access port within the trash rack or use a sloped trash rack that consists of bearing bars (not horizontal) that create openings no more than five inches clear.
- Provide a hard-bottom forebay that allows for removal of sediment.
- Where baseflows are anticipated, consider providing a flow-measuring device (e.g. weir or flume with staff gage and rating curve) at the forebay to assist with future modifications of the water quality plate. Typically, the baseflow will increase as the watershed develops. It is important that the water quality plate continue to function, passing the baseflow while draining the WQCV over approximately 40 hours. Measuring the actual baseflow can be helpful in determining if and when the orifice plate should be replaced.

## Benefits

- The relatively simple design can make EDBs less expensive to construct than other BMPs, especially for larger basins.
- Maintenance requirements are straightforward.
- The facility can be designed for multiple uses.

## Limitations

- Ponding time and depths may generate safety concerns.
- Best suited for tributary areas of 5 impervious acres or more. EDBs are not recommended for sites less than 2 impervious acres.
- Although ponds do not require more total area compared to other BMPs, they typically require a relatively large continuous area.

EDBs providing combined water quality and flood control functions can serve multiple uses such as playing fields or picnic areas. These uses are best located at higher elevation within the basin, above the WQCV pool level.

## Design Procedure and Criteria

The following steps outline the design procedure and criteria for an EDB and Figure EDB-3 shows a typical configuration. UD-BMP, available at [www.udfcd.org](http://www.udfcd.org), is an Excel based workbook that can be used to perform some of the below calculations and ensure conformance to these criteria. UD-Detention, another workbook developed by UDFCD can be used to develop and route a storm hydrograph through an EDB and design the outlet structure.

1. **Basin Storage Volume:** Provide a design volume equal to the WQCV or the EURV. This volume begins at the lowest orifice in the outlet structure.
  - Determine the imperviousness of the watershed (or effective imperviousness where LID elements are used upstream).
  - Find the required storage volume. Determine the required WQCV or EURV (watershed inches of runoff) using Figure 3-2 located in Chapter 3 of this manual (for WQCV) or equations provided in the *Storage* chapter of Volume 2 (for EURV).
  - Calculate the design volume as follows:

For WQCV:

$$V = \left[ \frac{WQCV}{12} \right] A \quad \text{Equation EDB-1}$$

For EURV:

$$V = \left[ \frac{EURV}{12} \right] A \quad \text{Equation EDB-2}$$

Where:

V = design volume (acre ft)

A = watershed area tributary to the extended detention basin (acres)

2. **Basin Shape:** Always maximize the distance between the inlet and the outlet. It is best to have a basin length (measured along the flow path from inlet to outlet) to width ratio of at least 2:1. A longer flow path from inlet to outlet will minimize short circuiting and improve reduction of TSS. To achieve this ratio, it may be necessary to modify the inlet and outlet points through the use of pipes or swales.
3. **Basin Side Slopes:** Basin side slopes should be stable and gentle to facilitate maintenance and access. Slopes that are 4:1 or flatter should be used to allow for conventional maintenance equipment and for improved safety, maintenance, and aesthetics. Side slopes should be no steeper than 3:1. The use of walls is highly discouraged due to maintenance constraints.
4. **Inlet:** Dissipate flow energy at concentrated points of inflow. This will limit erosion and promote particle sedimentation. Inlets should be designed in accordance with UDFCD drop structure criteria for inlets above the invert of the forebay, impact basin outlet details for at grade inlets, or other types of energy dissipating structures.

5. **Forebay Design:** The forebay provides an opportunity for larger particles to settle out in an area that can be easily maintained. The length of the flow path through the forebay should be maximized, and the slope minimized to encourage settling. The appropriate size of the forebay may be as much a function of the level of development in the tributary area as it is a percentage of the WQCV. When portions of the watershed may remain disturbed for an extended period of time, the forebay size will need to be increased due to the potentially high sediment load. Refer to Table EDB-4 for a design criteria summary. When using this table, the designer should consider increasing the size of the forebay if the watershed is not fully developed.

The forebay outlet should be sized to release 2% of the undetained peak 100-year discharge. A soil riprap berm with 3:1 sideslopes (or flatter) and a pipe outlet or a concrete wall with a notch outlet should be constructed between the forebay and the main EDB. It is recommended that the berm/pipe configuration be reserved for watersheds in excess of 20 impervious acres to accommodate the minimum recommended pipe diameter of 8 inches. When using the berm/pipe configuration, round up to the nearest standard pipe size and use a minimum diameter of 8 inches. The floor of the forebay should be concrete or lined with grouted boulders to define sediment removal limits. With either configuration, soil riprap should also be provided on the downstream side of the forebay berm or wall if the downstream grade is lower than the top of the berm or wall. The forebay will overtop frequently so this protection is necessary for erosion control. All soil riprap in the area of the forebay should be seeded and erosion control fabric should be placed to retain the seed in this high flow area.

6. **Trickle Channel:** Convey low flows from the forebay to the micropool with a trickle channel. The trickle channel should have a minimum flow capacity equal to the maximum release from the forebay outlet.
- **Concrete Trickle Channels:** A concrete trickle channel will help to establish the bottom of the basin long-term and may also facilitate regular sediment removal. It can be a "V" shaped concrete drain pan or a concrete channel with curbs. A flat-bottom channel facilitates maintenance. A slope between 0.4% - 1% is recommended to encourage settling while reducing the potential for low points within the pan.
  - **Soft-bottom Trickle Channels:** When designed and maintained properly, soft-bottom trickle channels can allow for an attractive alternative to concrete. They can also improve water quality. However, they are not appropriate for all sites. Be aware, maintenance of soft bottom trickle channels requires mechanical removal of sediment and vegetation. Additionally, this option provides mosquito habitat. For this reason, UDFCD recommends that they be considered on a case-by-case basis and with the approval of the local jurisdiction. It is recommended that soft bottom trickle channels be designed with a consistent longitudinal slope from forebay to micropool and that they not meander. This geometry will allow for reconstruction of the original design when sediment removal in the trickle channel is necessary. The trickle channel may also be located along the toe of the slope if a straight channel is not desired. The recommended minimum depth of a soft bottom trickle channel is 1.5 feet. This depth will help limit potential wetland growth to the trickle channel, preserving the bottom of the basin.

Riprap and soil riprap lined trickle channels are not recommended due to past maintenance experiences, where the riprap was inadvertently removed along with the sediment during maintenance.

- Micropool and Outlet Structure:** Locate the outlet structure in the embankment of the EDB and provide a permanent micropool directly in front of the structure. Submerge the well screen to the bottom of the micropool. This will reduce clogging of the well screen because it allows water to flow through the well screen below the elevation of the lowest orifice even when the screen above the water surface is plugged. This will prevent shallow ponding in front of the structure, which provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes (large shallow puddles tend to produce more mosquitoes than a smaller, deeper permanent pond).

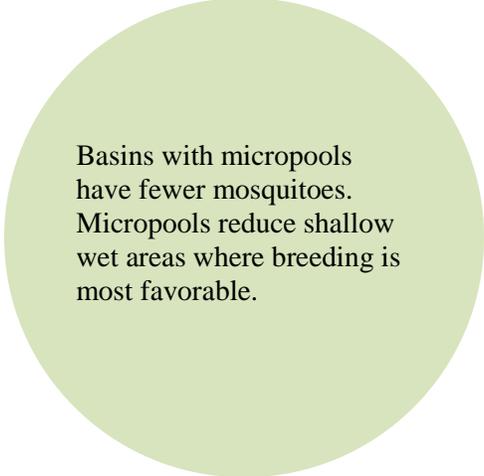
Micropool side slopes may be vertical walls or stabilized slopes of 3:1 (horizontal:vertical). For watersheds with less than 5 impervious acres, the micropool can be located inside the outlet structure (refer to Figures OS-7 and OS-8 provided in Fact Sheet T-12). The micropool should be at least 2.5 feet in depth with a minimum surface area of 10 square feet. The bottom should be concrete unless a baseflow is present or anticipated or if groundwater is anticipated. Riprap is not recommended because it complicates maintenance operations.

Where possible, place the outlet in an inconspicuous location as shown in Photo EDB-3. This urban EDB utilizes landscaped parking lot islands connected by a series of culverts (shown in Photo EDB-4) to provide the required water quality and flood control volumes.

The outlet should be designed to release the WQCV over a 40-hour period. Draining a volume of water over a specified time can be done through an orifice plate as detailed in Fact Sheet T-12. Use reservoir routing calculations as discussed in the *Storage* Chapter of Volume 2 to assist in the design. Two workbooks tools have been developed by UDFCD for this purpose, UD-FSD and UD-Detention. Both are available at [www.udfcd.org](http://www.udfcd.org). UD-FSD is recommended for a typical EDB full spectrum detention design. UD-Detention uses the same methodology and can be used for a full spectrum detention basin or a WQCV only design. It also allows for a wider range of outlet controls should the user want to specify something beyond what is shown in Fact Sheet T-12.

Refer to BMP Fact Sheet T-12 for schematics pertaining to structure geometry, grates, trash racks, orifice plate, and all other necessary components.

The outlet may have flared or parallel wing walls as shown in Figures EDB-1 and EDB-2, respectively. Either configuration should be recessed into the embankment to minimize its profile. Additionally, the trash rack should be sloped with the basin side-slopes.



Basins with micropools have fewer mosquitoes. Micropools reduce shallow wet areas where breeding is most favorable.

8. **Initial Surcharge Volume:** Providing a surcharge volume above the micropool for frequently occurring runoff minimizes standing water and sediment deposition in the remainder of the basin. This is critical to turf maintenance and mosquito abatement in the basin bottom. The initial surcharge volume is not provided in the micropool nor does it include the micropool volume. It is the available storage volume that begins at the water surface elevation of the micropool and extends upward to a grade break within the basin (typically the invert of the trickle channel).



**Photograph EDB-2.** The initial surcharge volume of this EDB is contained within the boulders that surround the micropool.



**Photograph EDB-3.** Although walls may complicate maintenance access, this outlet structure is relatively hidden from public view. This photo was taken shortly following a storm event.

The area of the initial surcharge volume, when full, is typically the same or slightly larger than that of the micropool. The initial surcharge volume should have a depth of at least 4 inches. For watersheds of at least 5 impervious acres, the initial surcharge volume should also be at least 0.3% of the WQCV. The initial surcharge volume is considered a part of the WQCV and does not need to be provided in addition to the WQCV. It is recommended that this area be shown on the grading plan or in a profile for the EDB. When baseflows are anticipated, it is recommended that the initial surcharge volume be increased. See the inset on page EDB-9 for additional guidelines for designing for baseflows.



**Photograph EDB-4.** A series of landscape islands connected by culverts provide water quality and flood control for this site.

9. **Trash Rack:** Provide a trash rack (or screen) of sufficient size at the outlet to provide hydraulic capacity while the rack is partially clogged. Openings should be small enough to limit clogging of the individual orifices. Size any overflow safety grate so it does not interfere with the hydraulic capacity of the outlet pipe. See BMP Fact Sheet T-12 for detailed trash rack and safety grate design guidance.

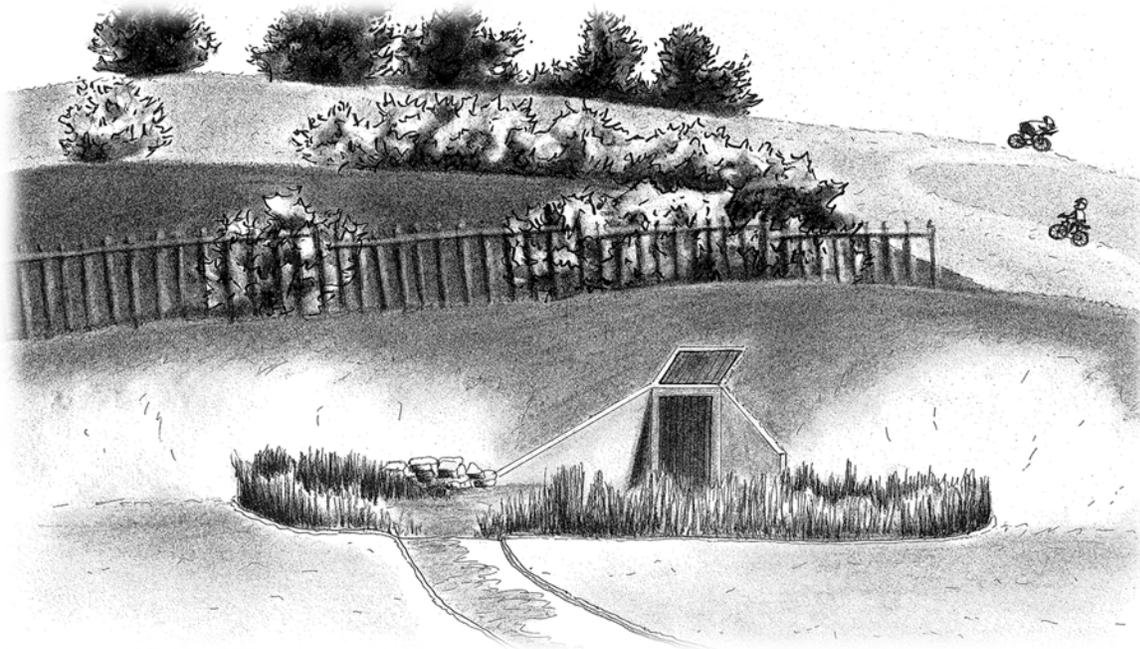


Figure EDB-1. Flared wall outlet structure configuration. Graphic by Adia Davis.

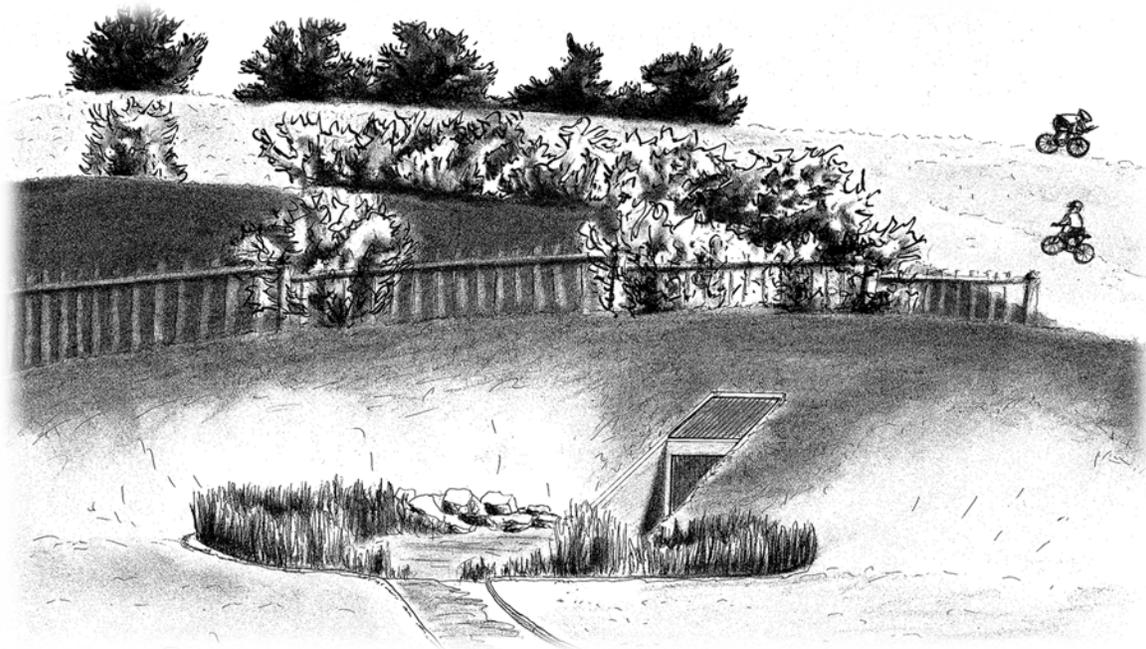


Figure EDB-2. Parallel wall outlet structure configuration. Graphic by Adia Davis.

10. **Overflow Embankment:** Design the embankment to withstand the 100-year storm at a minimum. If the embankment falls under the jurisdiction of the State Engineer's Office, it must be designed to meet the requirements of the State Engineer's Office. The overflow should be located at a point where waters can best be conveyed downstream. Slopes that are 4:1 or flatter should be used to allow for conventional maintenance equipment and for improved safety, maintenance, and aesthetics. Side slopes should be no steeper than 3:1 and should be planted with turf forming grasses. Poorly compacted native soils should be excavated and replaced. Embankment soils should be compacted to 95% of maximum dry density for ASTM D698 (Standard Proctor) or 90% for ASTM D1557 (Modified Proctor). Spillway structures and overflows should be designed in accordance with the *Storage* Chapter of Volume 2 as well as any local drainage criteria. Buried soil riprap or reinforced turf mats installed per manufacturer's recommendations can provide an attractive and less expensive alternative to concrete.
11. **Vegetation:** Vegetation provides erosion control and sediment entrapment. Basin bottom, berms, and side slopes should be planted with turf grass, which is a general term for any grasses that will form a turf or mat, as opposed to bunch grass which will grow in clumplike fashion. Xeric grasses with temporary irrigation are recommended to reduce maintenance requirements, including maintenance of the irrigation system as well as frequency of mowing. Where possible, place irrigation heads outside the basin bottom because irrigation heads in an EDB can become buried with sediment over time.
12. **Access:** Provide appropriate maintenance access to the forebay and outlet works. For larger basins, this means stabilized access for maintenance vehicles. If stabilized access is not provided, the maintenance plan should provide detail, including recommended equipment, on how sediment and trash will be removed from the outlet structure and micropool. Some communities may require

## Designing for Baseflows

Baseflows should be anticipated for large tributary areas and can be accommodated in a variety of ways. Consider the following:

- If water rights are available, consider alternate BMPs such as a constructed wetland pond or retention pond.
- Anticipate future modifications to the outlet structure. Following construction, baseflows should be monitored periodically. Intermittent flows can become perennial and perennial flows can increase over time. It may be determined that outlet modifications are necessary long after construction of the BMP is complete.
- Design foundation drains and other groundwater drains to bypass the water quality plate directing these drains to a conveyance element downstream of the EDB. This will reduce baseflows and help preserve storage for the WQCV.
- When the basin is fully developed and an existing baseflow can be approximated prior to design, the water quality orifices should be increased to drain the WQCV in 40 hours while also draining the baseflow. This requires reservoir routing using an inflow hydrograph that includes the baseflow. The *UD-Detention* workbook available at [www.udfcd.org](http://www.udfcd.org) may be used for this purpose.
- Increase the initial surcharge volume of the pond to provide some flexibility when baseflows are known or anticipated. Baseflows are difficult to approximate and will continue to increase as the watershed develops. Increasing the initial surcharge volume will accommodate a broader range of flows.

vehicle access to the bottom of the basin regardless of the size of the watershed. Grades should not exceed 10% for haul road surfaces and 20% for skid-loader and backhoe access. Stabilized access includes concrete, articulated concrete block, concrete grid pavement, or reinforced grass pavement. The recommended cross slope is 2%.

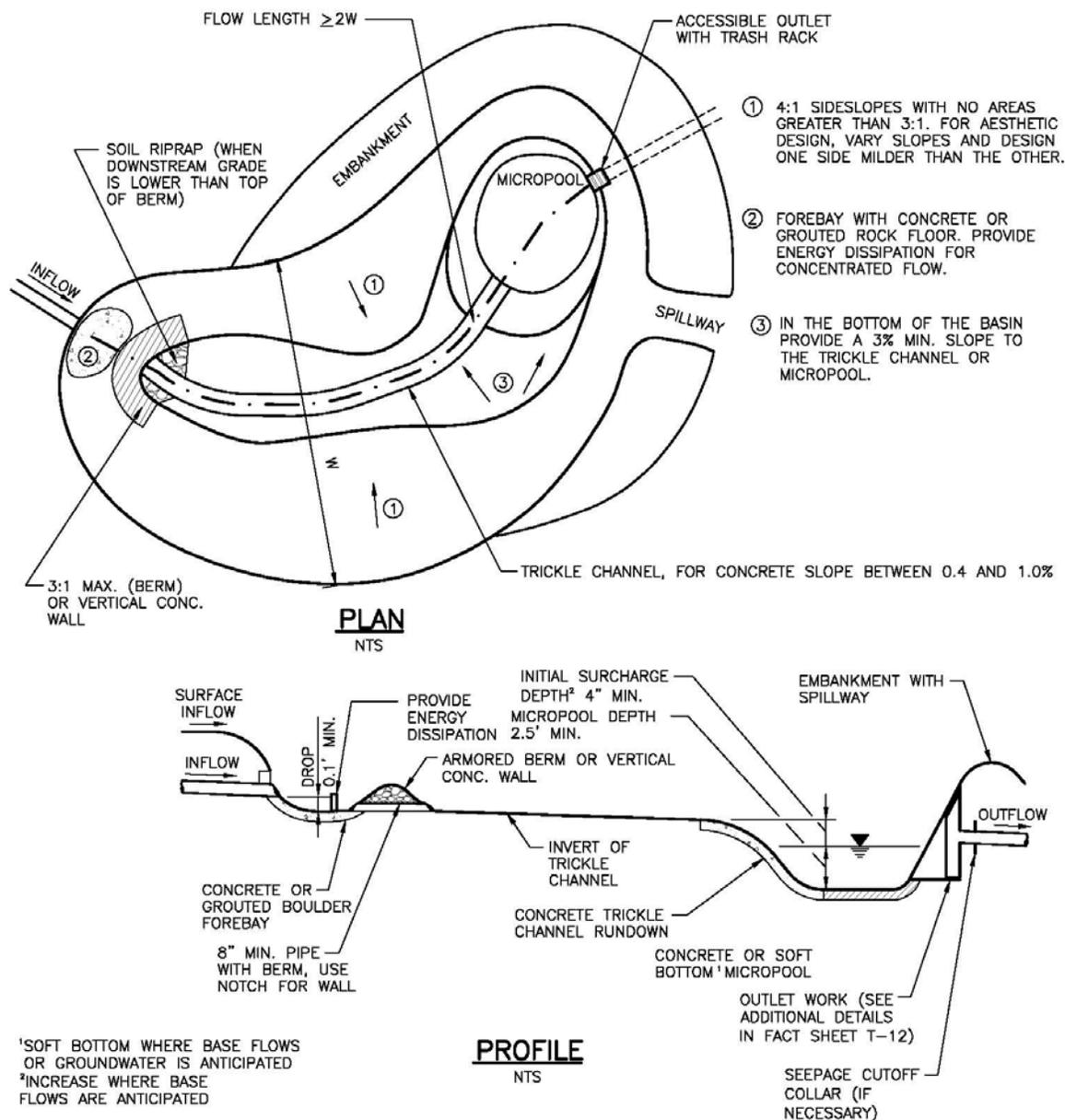
## **Aesthetic Design**

Since all land owners and managers wish to use land in the most efficient manner possible, it is important that EDBs become part of a multi-use system. This encourages the design of EDBs as an aesthetic part of a naturalized environment or to include passive and/or active open space. Within each scenario, the EDB can begin to define itself as more than just a drainage facility. When this happens, the basin becomes a public amenity. This combination of public amenity and drainage facility is of much greater value to a landowner. Softened and varied slopes, interspersed irrigated fields, planting areas and wetlands can all be part of an EDB.

The design should be aesthetic whether it is considered to be an architectural or naturalized basin. Architectural basins incorporate design borrowed or reflective of the surrounding architecture or urban forms. An architectural basin is intended to appear as part of the built environment, rather than hiding the cues that identify it as a stormwater structure. A naturalized basin is designed to appear as though it is a natural part of the landscape. This section provides suggestions for designing a naturalized basin. The built environment, in contrast to the natural environment, does not typically contain the randomness of form inherent in nature. Constructed slopes typically remain consistent, as do slope transitions. Even dissipation structures are usually a hard form and have edges seldom seen in nature. If the EDB is to appear as though it is a natural part of the landscape, it is important to minimize shapes that provide visual cues indicating the presence of a drainage structure. For example, the side sides should be shaped more naturally and with varying slopes for a naturalized basin.

### **Suggested Methods for a Naturalized Basin**

- Create a flowing form that looks like it was shaped by water.
- Extend one side of the basin higher than the other. This may require a berm.
- Shape the bottom of the basin differently than the top.
- Slope of one side of the basin more mildly than the opposing side.
- Vary slope transitions both at the top of the bank and at the toe.
- Use a soft-surface trickle channel if appropriate and approved.
- When using rock for energy dissipation, the rock should graduate away from the area of hard edge into the surrounding landscape. Other non-functional matching rock should occur in other areas of the basin to prevent the actual energy dissipation from appearing out of context.
- Design ground cover to reflect the type of water regime expected for their location within the basin.



**FIGURE EDB-3  
EXTENDED DETENTION BASIN**

**Figure EDB-3. Extended Detention Basin (EDB) Plan and Profile**

Additional Details are provided in BMP Fact Sheet T-12. This includes outlet structure details including orifice plates and trash racks.

Table EDB-4. EDB component criteria

	On-Site EDBs for Watersheds up to 1 Impervious Acre <sup>1</sup>	EDBs with Watersheds between 1 and 2 Impervious Acres <sup>1</sup>	EDBs with Watersheds up to 5 Impervious Acres	EDBs with Watersheds over 5 Impervious Acres	EDBs with Watersheds over 20 Impervious Acres
Forebay Release and Configuration	EDBs should not be used for watersheds with less than 1 impervious acre.	Release 2% of the undetained 100-year peak discharge by way of a wall/notch configuration	Release 2% of the undetained 100-year peak discharge by way of a wall/notch configuration	Release 2% of the undetained 100-year peak discharge by way of a wall/notch configuration	Release 2% of the undetained 100-year peak discharge by way of a wall/notch or berm/pipe <sup>2</sup> configuration
Minimum Forebay Volume		1% of the WQCV	2% of the WQCV	3% of the WQCV	3% of the WQCV
Maximum Forebay Depth		12 inches	18 inches	18 inches	30 inches
Trickle Channel Capacity		≥ the maximum possible forebay outlet capacity			
Micropool		Area ≥ 10 ft <sup>2</sup>			
Initial Surge Volume		Depth ≥ 4 inches	Depth ≥ 4 inches	Depth ≥ 4 in. Volume ≥ 0.3% WQCV	Depth ≥ 4 in. Volume ≥ 0.3% WQCV

<sup>1</sup> EDBs are not recommended for sites with less than 2 impervious acres. Consider a sand filter or rain garden.

<sup>2</sup> Round up to the first standard pipe size (minimum 8 inches).