

Stormwater Basins

by John Seitz

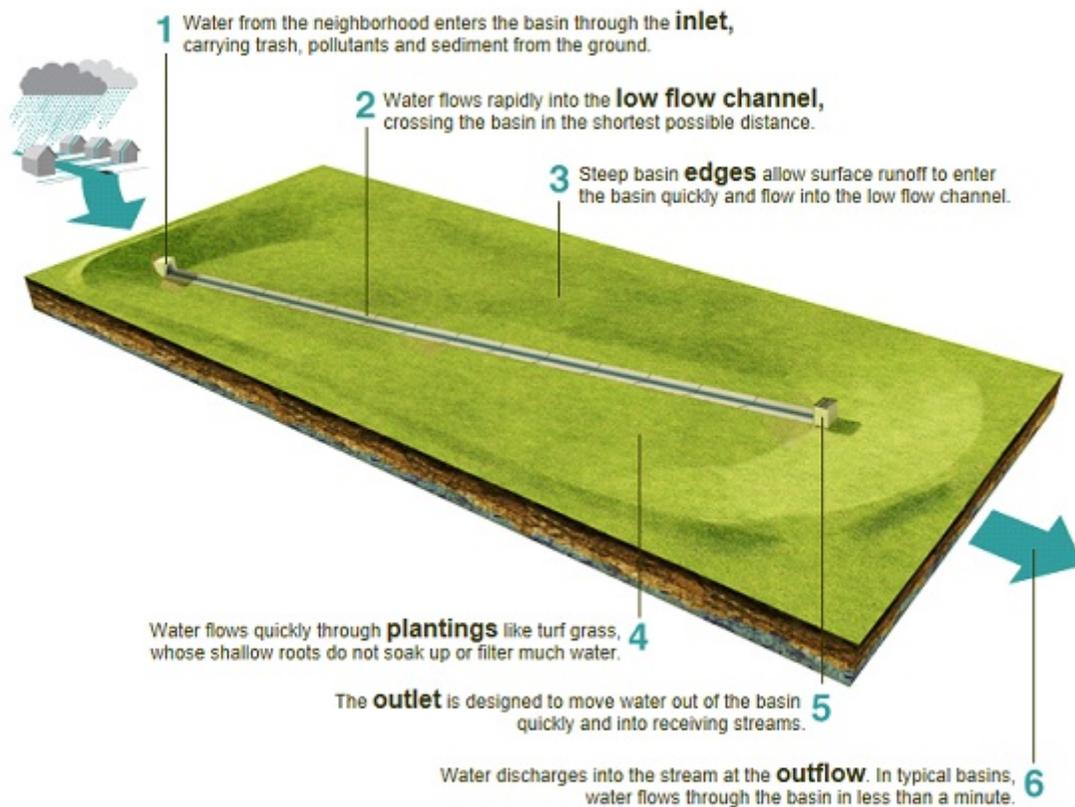
Stormwater Management Over The Years

Managing excess surface runoff produced as a result of land development has historically used the strategy of getting rid of it as quickly as possible. This was mostly accomplished by using large detention basins to collect the runoff and then releasing it to the

nearest stream as fast as possible, attempting to minimize downstream flooding. However, it is now widely recognized that the philosophy and infrastructure of past stormwater management has been less than beneficial to County water resources.

Today, York County municipalities need to treat stormwater runoff as the resource it is. Infiltration of runoff into the ground not only reduces flooding, but also reduces pollution while recharging groundwater aquifers.

What Happens to Stormwater in a *Typical* Detention Basin?

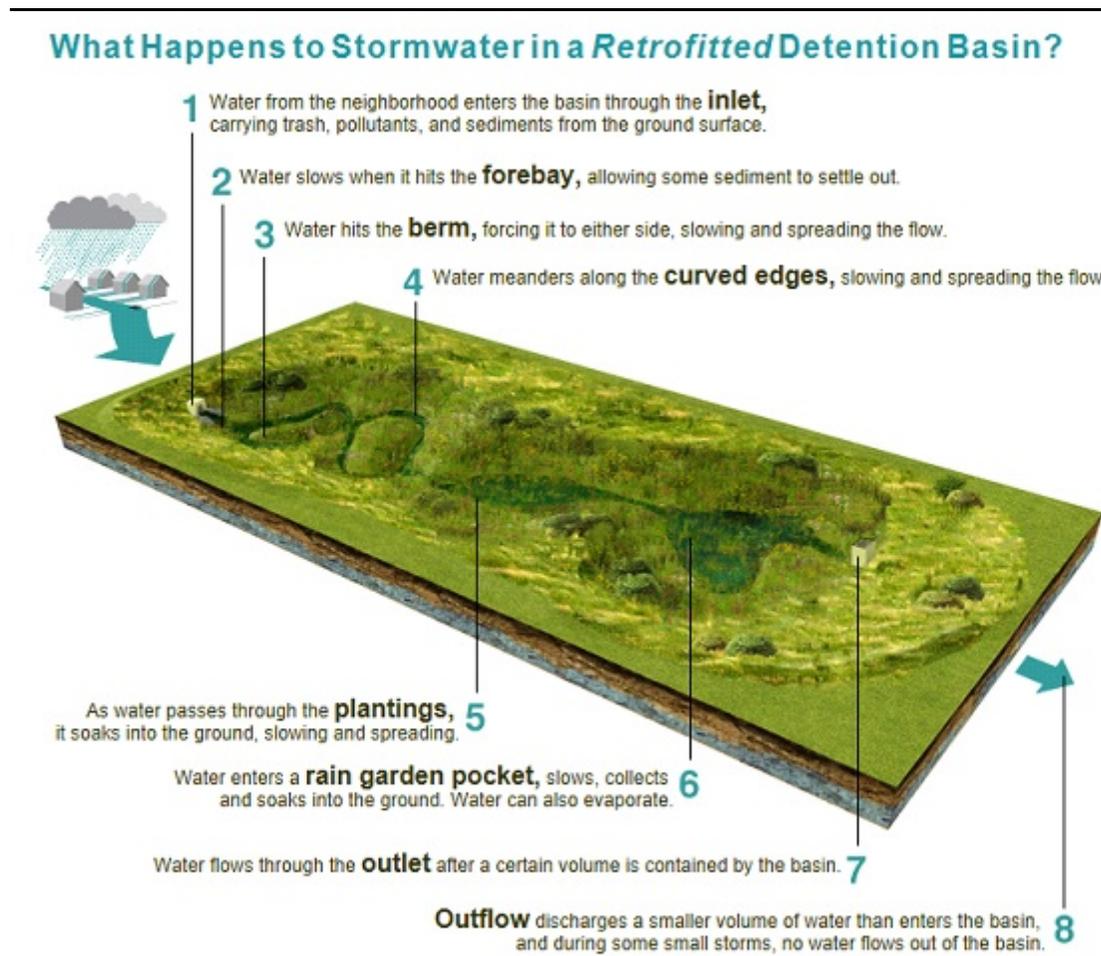


Conventional vs Naturalized Stormwater Basins

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council developed the accompanying graphics which illustrate the differences between conventional detention basins and naturalized basins. While conventional basins were designed to reduce flooding through rate control, naturalized basins incorporate water quality and groundwater recharge, as well as rate control into their design. Plantings of native vegetation slows basin inflows and attenuates pollutants, while rain

garden pockets increase infiltration into the groundwater, thereby recharging aquifers. The reduced stormwater discharge to receiving streams acts to reduce erosive flows and sediment pollution.

Several York County municipalities have begun to retrofit conventional detention basins into naturalized stormwater facilities, thereby helping to achieve Chesapeake Bay goals while improving local streams. For more information, see the contact information below.



For a more detailed brochure, contact
John Seitz (jseitz@ycpc.org) at the York County Planning Commission.