

APPENDIX C – BASIN GUIDELINES

This appendix is broken up into two sections. Section 1 presents guidelines and standards for the design and maintenance of water quality and increased runoff basins used within Riverside County. Applicable water quality basins include infiltration, sand filter and extended detention basins but do not include Bioretention BMPs. Section 2 is devoted to guidelines and standards for debris basins. Regional Basins are only loosely governed by this document and are largely considered on a case-by-case basis.

These guidelines are *intended* to be used on both private and public facilities throughout Riverside County and *shall* be adhered to for all facilities to be maintained by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). It is anticipated that County Transportation, Coachella Valley Water District and the City Engineer for incorporated cities within the County may choose to alter these guidelines and may have different/additional requirements. These entities, along with the District, will be referred to as the Engineering Authority (EA). Similarly, County or City Planning Departments, Parks Departments and Parks Districts may also have different/additional requirements. These entities will be referred to as the Planning Authority (PA). Both the EA and PA should be consulted regarding their specific requirements.

Section 1- Detention and Water Quality Basins

1.1 General Criteria

Off-line versus In-stream Mitigation – All water quality mitigation basins must be flow-through. In-stream mitigation is extremely difficult to accomplish unless the basin is designed to accommodate all upstream tributary area and to mitigate for all impacts due to upstream development. Therefore most EAs will not allow in-stream water quality mitigation basins. It shall be noted that while flow mitigation BMPs may be allowed to be constructed within “jurisdictional waters”, water quality mitigation BMPs will not be permitted.

Dam Safety Compliance – Basin designs that would be considered “jurisdictional” and fall under the Division of Safety of Dams (DSoD) review are not recommended.

Standard Details - Most EAs would prefer standardization of elements of outlet structures that are likely to wear (e.g., trash racks). Outflow control structures shall be designed in accordance with the EA's standards unless site-specific conditions preclude it. The District requires the use of Standard Drawing WQ501 for most basins. However a modified District CB110 overflow outlet is recommended for infiltration and sand filter basins. Minor modifications to provide supplemental hydraulic routing characteristics above the water quality storage volume are acceptable.

General Sizing Criteria – These guidelines relate to the basic features to be included in the various types of basins and the general geometrics of the basins design criteria. This

appendix does not include the volumetric sizing of facilities. Follow the appropriate increased runoff guidelines or BMP fact sheet sizing.

Geotechnical Reports – A geotechnical report prepared by either a licensed geotechnical engineer, civil engineer or certified engineering geologist is required for all basins. The minimum content of the Geotechnical report shall include the following:

- Slope stability - Discussion shall include the affect the basin may have on the stability of adjacent slopes as a result of the basin's proposed location.
- Compaction, cut and fill - Issues due to soil compaction and/or cut and fill conditions with regards to the safety and effectiveness of the basin shall be discussed.
- Setbacks from buildings, slopes, wells - The report shall include recommendations for the minimum setback required from buildings, onsite walls, and slopes. In addition, the report shall determine the location of any pre-existing wells (onsite or offsite) and clarify that the minimum 100 foot horizontal setback has been maintained.
- Embankment design - For embankments over 5 feet in height, the geotechnical report shall include recommendations as to its construction and clarify that the embankment meets the requirements herein.
- Boring logs - Boring logs shall be provided within the report and a discussion of their findings included. Any subsurface conditions which may be pertinent to the safety and effectiveness of the basin shall be discussed.
- High Groundwater Level - The historic high groundwater level shall be determined. It shall be clarified that a minimum 10 foot vertical separation from the bottom of the basin to the top of the historic high groundwater level will be maintained.

In addition, where infiltration basins are to be utilized on the site the following topics shall be discussed:

- Existing Conditions (i.e., legacy pollutants) - Where existing soil contains unusually high levels of pollutants, the report shall clarify the extent of the pollution, mitigation efforts and the viability of using an infiltration BMP effectively as a result.
- Infiltration Testing - The use of infiltration BMPs may require an infiltration rate be established as described in Appendix A, "Infiltration Testing Guidelines". An infiltration testing report may be required and documented as described therein

Parking Lot Detention - Parking lots shall not be used to provide additional surface (above ground) storage for either water quality BMPs or to address HCOCs.

Seeps and Springs- Intermittent seeps along cut slopes are typically fed by a shallow groundwater source (interflow) flowing along a relatively impermeable soil stratum. These flows are precipitation driven and should discontinue after a few weeks of dry weather. No special provisions are needed when directing these flows through the basin. However, more continuous seeps and springs, which extend through longer dry periods, are likely from a deeper groundwater source. When continuous flows are intercepted and directed through basins, adjustments to the approved facility design may be required to account for the additional base flow (unless already considered in design).

Privately Owned Basins - All of the criteria herein apply to privately maintained basins except that retaining walls may be used for a portion of interior slopes. Privately owned basins are only acceptable for commercial projects, multi-family residential projects and single family residential communities with a viable maintenance mechanism. Retaining walls may not be used to support water impounding embankments. Retaining walls shall not exceed one third of the outside perimeter of the basin. Detailed structural design calculations must be submitted with every retaining wall proposal. A fence shall be provided along the top of the wall. **The use of retaining walls in a basin requires approval prior to tentative project approval.** The EA or PA may reject the proposed use of retaining walls due to aesthetic and maintenance concerns relating to nuisance and graffiti abatement.

1.2 - Basin Grading Parameters

Basins must meet the following requirements for side slopes, fencing, and embankments:

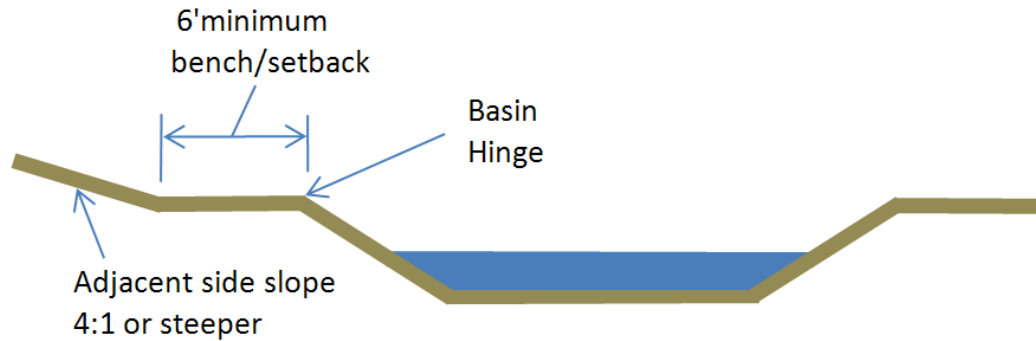
Interior Side Slopes - At least 50 percent of the facility perimeter shall have interior sides no steeper than 4H:1V and in no case steeper than 2H:1V (even if fenced) to minimize safety risks. Side slopes shall be no steeper than 4H:1V whenever adjacent to down-gradient external property lines, roadways, sidewalks and trails.

Embankments - Embankment fill slopes (external and internal) may be no steeper than 4:1 with no exceptions. Basin embankment height will be based on the vertical distance from the design overflow water surface (typically the spillway invert elevation) to the lowest downstream toe of embankment fill. Basin embankments higher than 5 feet shall require design by a geotechnical engineer and shall have a top width not less than 20 feet. For embankments 5 feet or less in height, the minimum top width shall be 6 feet. Embankments for water quality basins may not exceed 3 feet in height.

Setbacks - All basin grading impacts shall be set back a minimum of 6 feet from down-gradient external property lines. This requirement applies to both the top of a cut-slope and the toe of any exterior slope embankment, along with rip-rap energy dissipaters relative to the property line (excluding road right of way). The cut-slope setback requirement is intended to avoid situations where future offsite grading/cut-slopes could turn an incised

basin into an embankment-impounded reservoir. For all cases, depending on the amount of discharge and site characteristics, additional setback may be required unless appropriate easements are secured from the affected property owner(s).

There shall be a minimum 6 foot setback between a basin and an adjacent slope 4:1 or steeper measured horizontally from the basin hinge to the toe of the slope.



Forebay - A forebay shall be placed at each inlet to the basin to allow for the settlement and collection of larger particles. A relatively smooth concrete bottom surface should be provided to facilitate mechanical removal of accumulated sediment, trash and debris. A rock or concrete berm separates the forebay from the remainder of the basin. The forebay's design volume must be from 3 to 5% of the design volume, with the exception of infiltration and sand filter basins whose forebays should be 0.5% of the design volume. A full height notch-type weir shall be made through the berm to convey water to the main body of the basin. This notch shall be offset from the inflow streamline to prevent low-flows from short circuiting.

Basin Floor Slopes - Surface slopes should be kept at a minimum to allow for as much infiltration/groundwater recharge as is possible while still meeting vector concerns. All detention and extended detention basins shall have transverse and longitudinal bottom surface slopes of 1% minimum. For infiltration and sand filter basins, the basin floor should be level.



Gravel filled low-flow trench

Dry Weather Flow Management – All increased runoff or extended detention basins (**excluding** infiltration or sand filter basins) shall be designed to accommodate dry weather flows without impairing wet weather function or creating potential nuisance or maintenance issues. The basin shall have a network of gravel filled low-flow and collector trenches covering the entire basin floor area along with a sand filter drain adjacent to the outlet structure. See Figure 1 on following page.

A 48-inch wide by 24-inch deep low-flow trench conveys flow from the forebay to the filter drain. With a mild longitudinal slope of at least 1% to promote infiltration, the unlined low-flow trench shall be filled with 2" gravel (ASTM No. 2 or similar) to the finished surface and shall not use perforated subdrains.

Collector trenches beneath the top stage shall be arranged in accordance with Figure 1 with a maximum slope of 0.5% to promote infiltration and must extend from the low-flow channel to the toe of the basin side slopes. They shall be 18-inches wide by 24-inches deep and filled with 2" gravel (ASTM No. 2 or similar) to the finished surface. The collector trenches shall not have perforated subdrains and shall be constructed with a maximum spacing of 25 feet on center. See Figure 1 on following page.

A sand filter drain shall be constructed at the low point (or bottom-stage) of the basin adjacent to the outlet structure. To avoid clogging at the lowest orifice of the outlet structure, the top of the filter drain is offset below the lowest orifice of the outlet structure by 0.33 feet (4 inches). The sand filter drain shall include an 18 inch layer of sand (fine aggregate per

ASTM C-33) over a 10-inch gravel subdrain system and shall line the entire bottom stage. The total depth of the sand filter drain, D_{FD} , shall therefore not be less than 2.33 feet. See Appendix B for standard subdrain construction. The filter drain's design volume must be a minimum of 0.5% of V_{BMP} and the minimum bottom stage area is $A_{BS} = V_{BMP} / D_{BS}$.

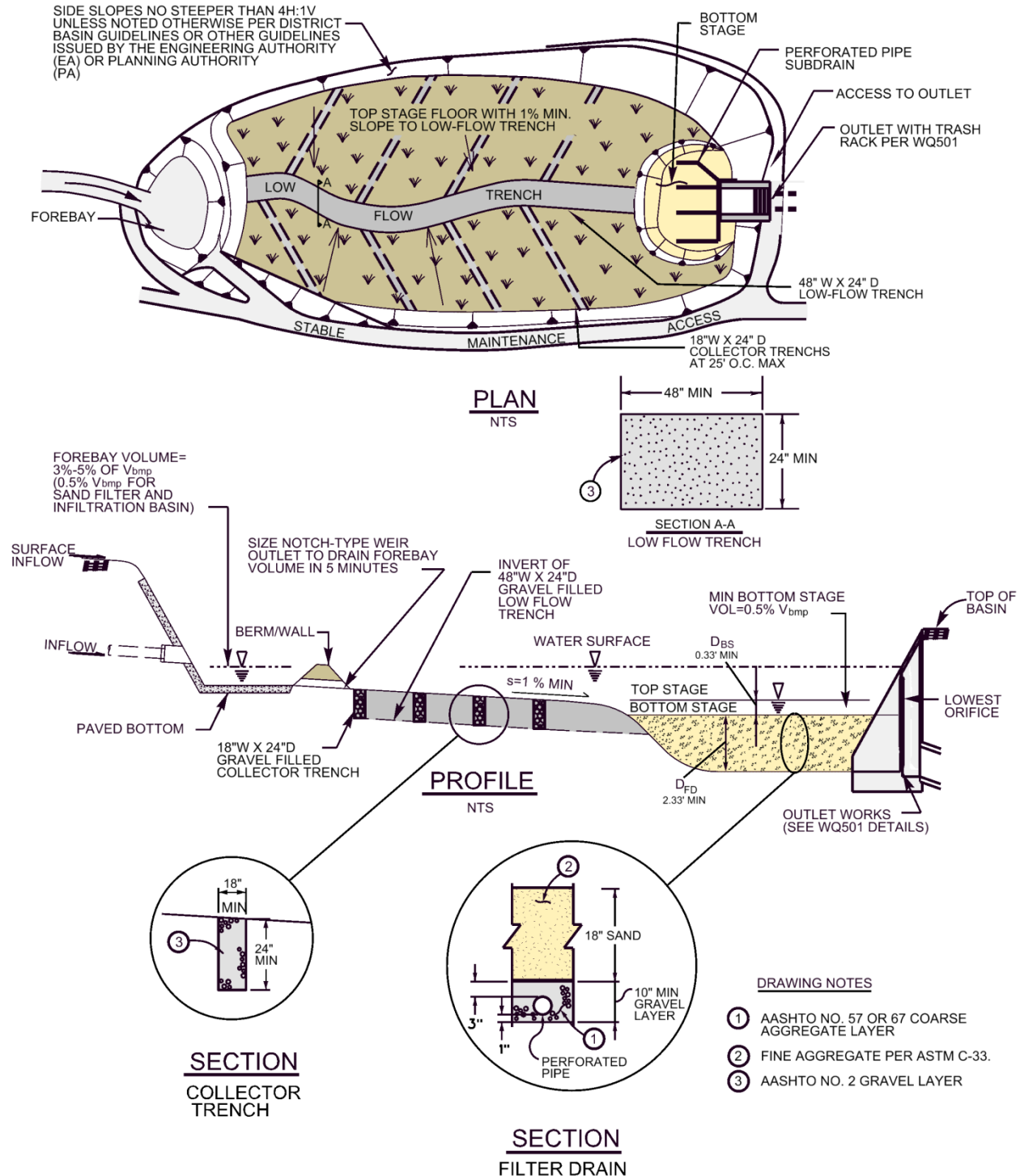
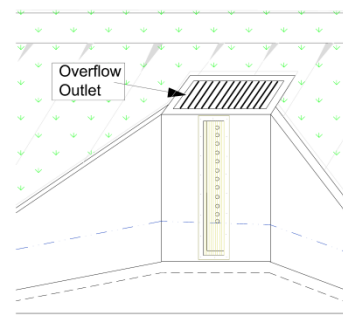


Figure 1 –Dry Weather Management Features

Outlet Structure and Spillway - Outlet structures shall conform to District Standard Drawing WQ501 unless approved in advance by the EA. This standardization is important in order to provide for efficient maintenance.

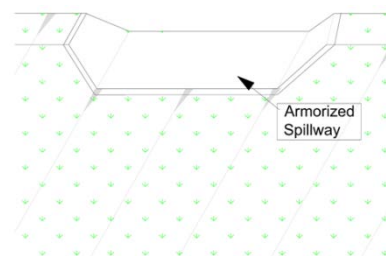
a. Water Quality Outlet Trash Rack/Screen - The outlet's orifice plate shall be protected with a conforming trash rack with at least six square feet of open surface area or 25 times the total orifice area, whichever is greater. The rack shall be adequately secured to prevent it from being removed or opened when maintenance is not occurring.

b. Overflow Outlet - In all basins, a primary overflow (usually integrated into the control structure) must be provided to pass flows greater than the design volume up to the 100-year event. The design must provide controlled discharge directly into the downstream conveyance system or an acceptable discharge point.



c. Emergency Overflow - In addition to the above overflow requirements, basins must have an emergency overflow escape path sized to safely pass the 100-year tributary developed peak flow in the event of total control structure failure (e.g., blockage of the control structure outlet pipe) or extreme inflows. Emergency overflow pathways are intended to control the location of basin overtopping and direct overflows back into the downstream conveyance system or other acceptable discharge point.

d. Emergency Overflow Spillway - Basins with constructed embankment over 3 feet in height and for BMP embankments of any height, or located on grades in excess of 5% must provide an emergency overflow spillway structure. The emergency overflow spillway must be designed to pass the 100-year developed peak flow, with a minimum 12 inches of freeboard, directly to the downstream conveyance system or an acceptable discharge point. The emergency overflow spillway shall be armored full width, beginning at a point midway across the berm embankment and extending downstream to an adequate outlet point. Design of emergency overflow spillways generally requires the analysis of a broad-crested trapezoidal weir.



Access Roads and Ramps - Maintenance access road(s) shall be provided to the top of the control structure and other drainage structures associated with the basin (e.g., inlet/forebay, emergency overflow or bypass structures). All basins shall have unobstructed access from a public street (see Section 1.4, “Right-of-Way”) with commercial size curb cut-outs and driveway approaches. Flood control basins designed to attenuate the 100 year flood event shall have an access road around the entire basin. Manhole and catch basin lids should be within or at the edge of the access road and shall be at least three feet from a property line. Rims shall be set at the access road grade.

On large, deep basins (at least 1500 square feet bottom area, measured without the ramp, and over 4 feet deep), an access ramp must extend to the basin bottom at the forebay for removal of sediment with a trackhoe and truck. This is necessary so truck loading can be done in the basin bottom.

However, on small deep basins (less than 1500 square feet, but over 4 feet deep), the truck can remain on the ramp for loading. As such, the ramp may end at an elevation up to 4 feet above the basin bottom provided the basin side slopes are 4:1 or flatter.

On small shallow basins (less than 1500 square feet bottom area, and 4 feet deep or less), a ramp to the bottom is not required if the trackhoe can load a truck parked at the basin edge (trackhoes can negotiate mild interior basin side slopes).

No ramp is required for any basin 4-feet or less in depth if vehicular access is provided to the top of slope at the forebay and the side slopes are 4:1 or flatter. (Depth trigger for ramp is measured from top of slope adjacent to forebay invert.)

Design of access roads and ramps shall meet the following design criteria:

- a. Maximum grade (measured along ramp centerline) shall be 15% for asphalt or concrete paving and 10% for soft surface or modular grid paving.
 - b. Inside turning radius shall be 35 feet, minimum.
 - c. Fence gates shall be located only on straight sections of road.
 - d. Access roads shall be constructed with an asphalt, concrete, 3-inch layer of compacted Class 2 aggregate road base material, decomposed granite or modular grid pavement.
 - e. Access roads and ramps shall be 15 feet in width on curves, 12 feet on straight sections.
- A paved apron shall be provided where access roads connect to paved public roadways.

1.3 - Landscaping

Landscaping will likely be required by the Planning Authority. Landscaping requirements shall be in accordance with Riverside County Ordinance 859 or equivalent agency ordinance. Care must be taken to ensure that landscaping does not hinder maintenance operations.

- a. Facilities shall be designed so that they do not require mowing. Where mowing cannot be avoided, facilities shall be designed to require mowing no more than once or twice annually. A 6-foot minimum width must be provided to allow a mower to pass (see Figure 2).

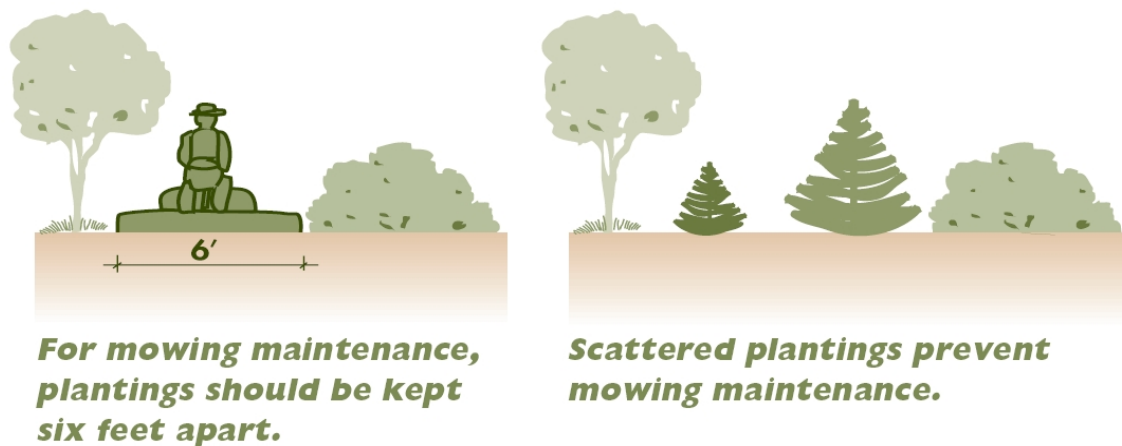


Figure 2- Landscaping setbacks (Source: King County WLR)

- b. Turf and lawn areas are not allowed for publicly maintained basins unless an appropriate landscape maintenance entity is identified.
- c. Planting is restricted on embankments that impound water either permanently or temporarily during storms (see figure 3). This reduces the likelihood of blown down trees, or the possibility of channeling or piping of water through the root system, which may contribute to dam failure on embankments that retain water.

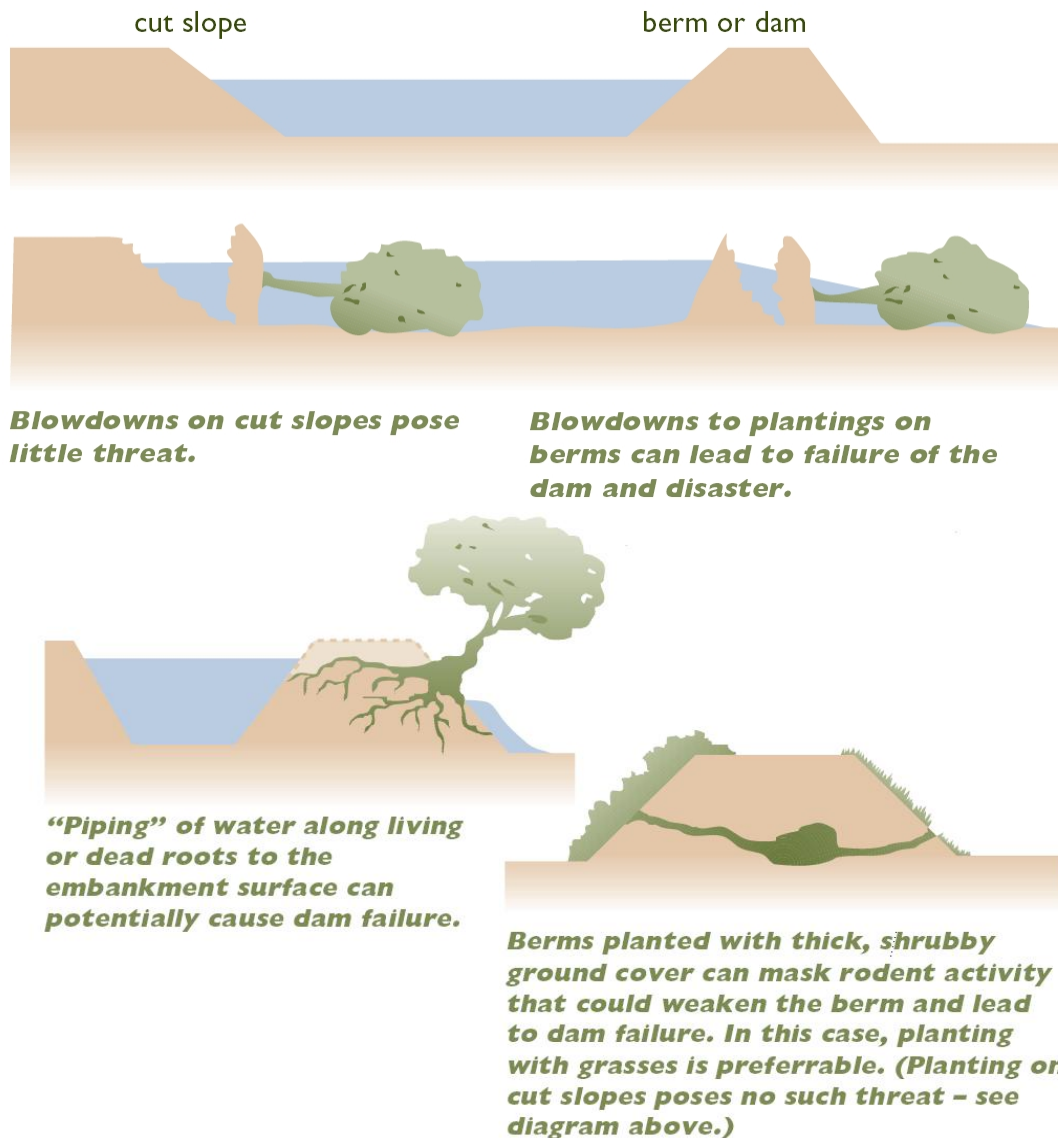


Figure 3 - Hazardous Landscaping Practices (Source: King County WLR)

Note: This restriction does not apply to cut slopes that form basin banks, only to embankments.

- d. No trees or shrubs may be planted within 10 feet of inlet or outlet pipes or from manmade drainage structures such as spillways or flow spreaders.
- e. Trees with roots that seek water, such as willow or poplar, should be avoided within 50 feet of pipes or manmade structures.
- f. Evergreen trees and others that produce relatively little leaf-fall (such as locust) are preferred in areas draining to the basin. Trees should be set back so branches do not extend over the outlet structure area of the basin (to help prevent clogging). Drought tolerant species are recommended.

- g. Trees or shrubs may not be planted on portions of water-impounding embankments taller than four feet high. Only grasses may be planted on embankments taller than four feet.

1.4 - Additional Requirements

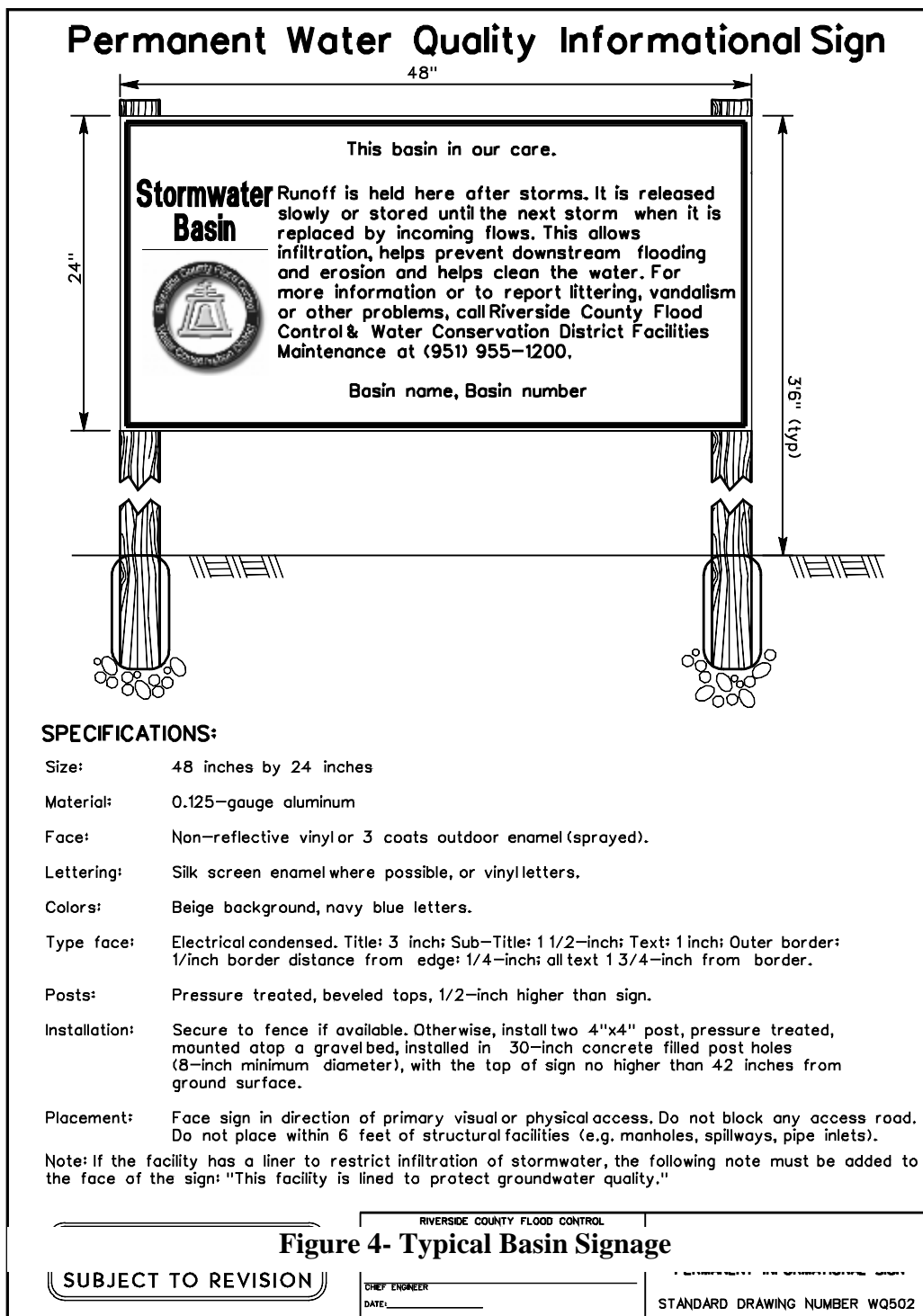
Fencing Criteria - The requirements for slopes and fencing are intended to discourage access to portions of a basin where steep side slopes (steeper than 4:1) increase the potential for slipping into the basin, and to allow easy egress for those who have fallen with slopes that are mild enough (flatter than 4:1 and unfenced) to allow for easy escape. If the basin will hold water deeper than 2 feet, a physical barrier as demarcation of the basin limits is required:

- a. Where interior slopes are steeper than 4:1, the barrier shall be a fence 6 feet in height (see District Standard Drawing M-801 for chain link fence details). In joint use ventures where a special district or agency has agreed to maintain landscape facilities, tubular steel fencing such as that meeting Valley Wide Recreation and Parks District landscape standard LC-10 is also acceptable. Functionally equivalent designs may be acceptable on a case by case basis.
- b. Where interior slopes are 4:1 or milder, the physical demarcation shall be (3-foot minimum height) vinyl or PVC rail fence, post-and-cable, masonry wall, or densely planted hedges. Functionally equivalent designs may be acceptable on a case by case basis.
- c. If the side slopes undulate, and segments of the slope are steeper than 4:1, the barrier standard from “b.” above may be used in place of the 6-foot fence for the short lengths of slope as specified here: The barriers described in “b.” may be used for sections of 2:1 slope not to exceed 20 lineal feet and sections of 3:1 slope not exceeding 50 lineal feet.
- d. If required, fencing shall be placed at or above the overflow water surface. Side slope and attendant fencing requirements are not applicable to slopes above the overflow water surface.

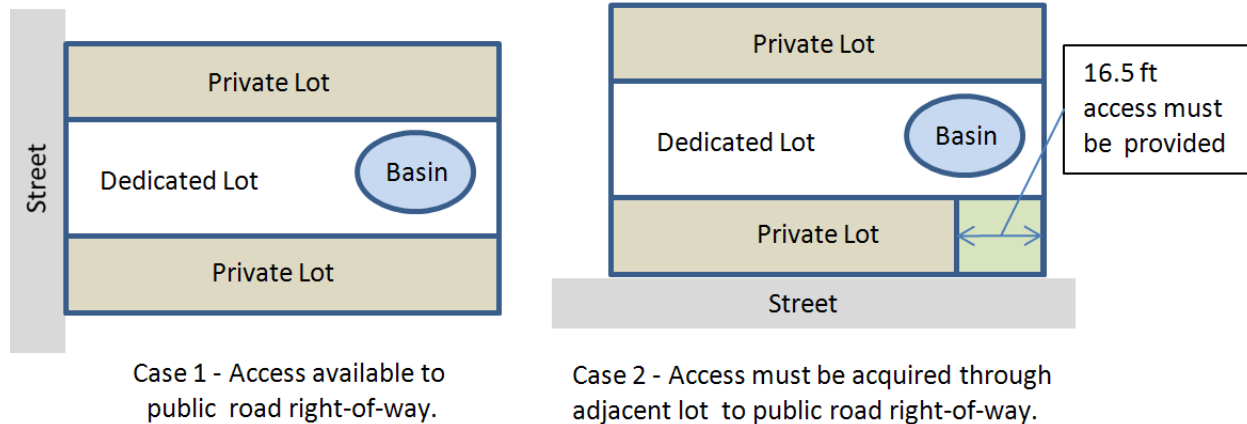
Gates - Vehicular access shall be limited by a double-posted gate if a fence is required, or by bollards. Access road gates shall be 14 feet in width consisting of two swinging sections 7 feet in width (see the District’s Standard Drawing M-801 for details). Alternately, two fixed bollards on each side of the access road and two removable bollards equally located between the fixed bollards may be used. Additional vehicular access gates may be required as needed to facilitate maintenance access. Pedestrian access gates (if needed) shall be 4 feet in width.

Signage - All basins to be maintained by the District shall have a sign placed for maximum visibility from adjacent streets, sidewalks, and paths. The sign shall meet the design and installation requirements illustrated in Figure 4.

Right-of-Way - Basins shall not be located in a dedicated public road right-of-way. Publicly maintained basins shall be in a lot dedicated to the public. Any lot not abutting the public right-



of-way will require a 16.5-foot wide extension of the lot to an acceptable access location.



1.5 - Basins in Recreational Spaces

Any basin site with a bottom surface area larger than one acre will likely be required to incorporate active use area and shall be designed only after consultation with the PA to establish site-specific guidance which may increase the total facility footprint.

If multiple uses are being contemplated, consider the following:

- Place the active use areas such as ballparks, playing fields, and picnic areas above the water quality design volume (V_{BMP}) ponding limit.
- Use a multiple-stage detention basin to limit inundation of passive recreational areas to one or two occurrences a year.
- Side slopes shall not exceed 25% (4:1) unless they are existing, natural, and covered with vegetation.
- Locate the basin in a separate lot.
- Incorporate a bypass system or emergency overflow pathway that does not present a safety hazard or discharge into active recreation areas.
- The basin shall be landscaped in a manner to enhance passive recreational opportunities such as trails and aesthetic viewing. Inquire with the PA whether the basin can be compatible with the open space value and functions.

If the criteria above are met, projects may be able to receive some reduction in required onsite recreational space if approved in advance of tentative project approval by the PA.

Section 2 - Debris Basins

Debris basins differ from stormwater detention and water quality basins in that they are not intended to detain flows or to mitigate pollutants (other than debris). They are simply utilized to collect large debris from storm flows for later removal. The guidelines in this section apply to debris basins only.

Site access – Debris basins shall have unobstructed access from a public street (see Section 1.4, “Right-of-Way”) with commercial size curb cut-outs and driveway approaches.

Fencing – The entire facility shall be enclosed with 6-foot high chain link fencing and 14-foot high double drive gates. Where the perimeter fencing crosses a streambed, cable or barbed wire fencing across streambed will be provided.

Maintenance access - Maintenance access shall extend around the entire perimeter of the facility. Roads shall be a minimum of 15 feet wide (20 feet wide if on an embankment of 3 feet or higher). The minimum design turning radius shall be 35 feet. Ramps shall be a minimum of 15 feet wide with a maximum longitudinal slope of 10%. Both roads and ramps shall be surfaced (full width) with 3" of compacted Class 2 base material.

Basin Cut/Fill slopes – All basin slopes shall not be steeper than 3:1.

Stockpile/Staging Area – Shall be situated immediately adjacent to the basin. The minimum acreage shall be sufficient to temporarily store 20% of volume of debris accumulated in the 100-yr-frequency design event. Surface acreage shall be calculated assuming a stockpile of 10 feet high with 2:1 fill slopes. A minimum 15-foot wide access road with a 35-foot wide turning radius shall be provided to accommodate equipment access. In addition, a 70-foot long by 15-foot wide strip is required for equipment loading and unloading within an area of sufficient size to maneuver heavy construction equipment.

Minimum Basin Floor Surface Area – Basin floors 1,400 square or greater must be provided with a minimum width of 30 feet.

Outlet Structure – A tower-type outlet is not permitted. Use outlet structure design similar to that used in designs for Tahquitz Creek and Oak Street Debris Basins (slotted/slanted grate). All structures and ramps to structures shall include safety rails/belly bars at all stairways and wherever appropriate. A minimum of two (2) visible depth (paddle) gauges shall be provided.