Sediment Basins

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ALSO ADDRESSED

- Inlet Protection
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- Sediment Storage
- Slope Stabilization
- Rock Berms
- Outlet Protection
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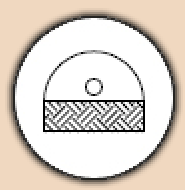
PLAN SYMBOL



Introduction

Sediment Basins are a Best Management Practice (BMP) used to collect and impound stormwater runoff from disturbed areas (typically 5 acres or more) at construction sites to restrict sediments and other pollutants from being discharged off-site. These basins may also be used to control the volume and velocity of the runoff through a timed release by utilizing multiple spillways. It is through this attenuation of runoff that sediment basins may be capable of meeting South Carolina's Design Requirements, specifically the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) removal efficiency of 80%.

These basins work most effectively in conjunction with additional sediment and erosion control BMPs installed and maintained up gradient of the basins.

Guidance Disclaimer

This is a guidance document and may not be feasible in all situations. Alternative means and methods for sediment basin design and construction also may be employed.

All means and methods must comply with the DHEC South Carolina NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities (Permit). Approved means and methods include those published and approved by an MS4 in compliance with the Permit.

In addition, a licensed Professional Engineer may design a sediment basin that, when constructed, accommodates the anticipated sediment loading from the land-disturbing activity and meets a removal efficiency of 80% suspended solids or 0.5 ML/L peak settable solids concentration, whichever is less, while remaining in compliance with the Permit.

General Information

Located near the site's perimeters, sediment basins can be created by the building of an embankment or through excavation, when the topography is relatively flat. Careful planning is necessary, during both design and construction phases, to ensure that sediment basins are not placed within Waters of the State (WoS) and are installed prior to the implementation of mass clearing, grubbing, and grading activities.

As runoff discharges into a sediment basin, specific mechanisms are used to reduce the velocity and turbulence of the runoff to allow for settling of suspended particles, a process known as sedimentation. Examples of these mechanisms include sediment forebays, porous baffles, and spillways with outlet structures that only discharge water from near the surface of the water column impounded within the basin.

After construction of the basin, routine inspection and maintenance of sediment basins along with the implementation of additional sediment and erosion control BMPs up gradient of the basin is essential to maintain the required trapping efficiency.

Image Source: Alabama NRCS

Design Requirements

- TSS Removal Efficiency* – > 80%
- Peak Settleable Solids Conc.* – < 0.5 mL/L
- Discharge Capacity – 10-yr, 24-hr Storm Event
- Inspections and Maintenance** – Weekly
- Internal Components***
  - Sediment Forebay – Basin Inlets
  - Porous Baffles – Between Inlets & Outlets
  - Water Surface Dewatering – Basin Outlets

** Whichever is less. ** Maintenance as necessary per inspection. ***Unless Infeasible.*

The above requirements shall serve as a baseline for all sediment basin design within the state of South Carolina. For further reference see SC State Regulations 72.300 Standards for Stormwater Management and Sediment Reduction (Section 72-307.C.5) and the SC NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities SCR100000 (Section 3.2.6.II).

The following sections of this guidance can be used to aid in the design of a sediment basin capable of meeting, if not exceeding, the above requirements. The selection and implementation of these practices should be based on the best professional judgment and the conditions expected at the construction site during the lifespan of each sediment basin.

Additional Design Considerations

- Drainage Area – 5-30 Acres*
- Sediment Storage – 3600 ft^3/Acre Draining
- Min Dewatering Time – 2 days (48 hours)
- Max Dewatering Time – 5 days (120 hours)
- Basin Shape - L = 2W (Minimum)
- Cleanout Height - 1/2 Sediment Storage
- Forebay Volume – 20% Sediment Storage
- Porous Baffles –3 Rows (Minimum)
- Basin Inlets – Stabilized to Prevent Scour
- Basin's Bottom Slope – 0.5% or Steeper
- Embankments – 2H:1V or Flatter

***30 Acre Limitation –** *Based off Design Aids Section. Larger drainage areas may be acceptable when using an alternative methodology to calculated trapping efficiencies.*

Location

The location of sediment basins at a construction site will vary due to site-specific conditions, but the following items should be used as guidance to determine the most appropriate location:

- **Not within Waters of the State:** It is prohibited to construct in or use Waters of the State as a sediment basin.
- **Down Gradient from Major Grading Activities:** Locations down gradient of large scale grading operations will promote sediment control during construction activities.
- **Near Identified Outfalls:** Locations near the determined site outfall will allow sediment basins to collect the majority of the runoff from the disturbed area.
- **Multipurpose Use:** Many construction sites will utilize a sediment basin as a detention pond after construction activities are completed. Selection of an area that allows for the installation of a sediment basin that can be converted to a detention pond post-construction is recommended.
- **Exclude Runoff from Off-Site and Undisturbed Areas:** The placement of sediment basins are recommended at a location that restricts the amount of stormwater runoff impounded from off-site and other undisturbed areas. Placement of temporary diversions berms, swales, or other conveyance measures may be required to divert the "clean" stormwater runoff away from the basin. This practice will minimize the drainage area being served by the sediment basin and may decrease the surface area required by the sediment basin.

Safety

Incorporate all possible safety precautions, such as signs and fencing, for sediment basins that are readily accessible to populated areas. For Example, a lateral shelf that is located above the sediment cleanout elevation may prevent entry onto the accumulated sediment and may also help with maintenance of the basin. In some circumstances, vector control may be necessary for sediment basins that routinely have a standing pool of water. This is especially important around residential areas to inhibit a rise in mosquito populations and the spread of disease. Maintaining a water depth of at least 3 feet within basins with permanent pools may also help prevent a rise in mosquito populations.

All other applicable safety criteria as outlined by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (previously the Natural Resources Conservation Service), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and state Dam Safety Regulations should also be followed during design and construction of sediment basins.

Basin Design Criteria

Properly sizing a sediment basin is crucial to improving sediment control during construction conditions. When designing a basin the following criteria should be addressed:

- **Storage Volume:** The minimum sediment storage volume recommended within a sediment basin is equal to 3,600 cubic feet per acre draining to the basin. Twenty percent (20%) of this volume should be provided within the sediment forebay. (*Basin Volumes of 50 ac-ft or more may be subject to Dam Safety Regulations and Permits.*)
- **Shape:** Sediment basins should be designed to maximize the flow length between the basins' inlets and outlets. To accomplish this, the minimum length-to-width ratio of each basin should be no less than 2:1. This results with an effective flow length that is at least twice the width of the basin. Additional (non-porous) baffling may be required if site constraints prevents the basin from meeting this minimum ratio. In each circumstance, measures must be taken to prevent short-circuiting of the sediment basin. Length and width measurements may be measured from top of embankment.
- **Surface Area:** The surface area within a sediment basin can have a substantial impact on the basin's trapping efficiency. Maximizing the surface area may lead to higher trapping efficiencies and may prove to be very beneficial when employed with multiple rows of porous baffles.
- **Depth:** The provided depth in a sediment basin will be directly linked to the required storage volumes and the appropriate surface area. It is recommended that a depth of 5 - 10 ft be provided in order to maximize surface area within the basin. (*Basin Depths resulting in an embankment height of 25 ft or more may be subject to Dam Safety Regulations and Permits.*)
- **Slope:** The sediment basin's bottom must be graded to have a slope of not less than 0.5%.

Basin Dewatering

Sediment basins must be designed to have the capability to discharge the 10-yr, NRCS 24-hr storm event through the principle spillway while under **during construction** conditions. This spillway must employ a mechanism to withdraw the impounded stormwater runoff from near the surface of the water column impounded within a basin.

This volume of water should discharge through the principle spillway within a time frame of 2-5 days, with 3 days being the recommended target. Meeting this recommended dewatering time allows for finer particulates to fall from suspension, improving the trapping efficiency of the sediment basin.

Embankments

Proper construction and stabilization of basin embankments are important factors of sediment basin design. When designing a basin the following criteria on embankments should be addressed:

- **Construction:** The foundation of the embankment should be stripped and grubbed of all vegetation, stumps, topsoil and other organic matter prior to construction of the dam. Machine compact the soil material used to construct the dam.
- **Minimum Width:** The top width of the embankment should be no less than 5 feet.
- **Side Slopes**: All side slopes, including those located within basin areas that are not part of the embankment, shall be 2:1 (H:V) or flatter. The recommended slope is 3:1 to allow for ease of maintenance.

- **Penetrations**: Any penetrations, including conduits, through the embankment shall be equipped with anti-seep mechanisms, such as anti-seep collars or a core/key trench.
- **Top of Embankment:** Keep the top of the embankment at a minimum of 2 feet above the crest of the principle spillway's riser. (This minimum elevation provides an emergency spillway that is at least 1 foot in height and has a 1-foot separation between its crest and the principle spillway's crest.)
- **Stabilization:** Promptly stabilize all areas disturbed by the construction of the embankment including embankment side slopes and access areas. Temporary or permanent stabilization measures should be conducted as necessary.

Excavations

All sediment basins created or expanded through excavation shall retain side slopes of 2:1 or flatter, and all side slopes should be promptly stabilized to prevent the formation of rills and gullies. The recommended slope is 3:1 (H:V) to allow for ease of maintenance.

Inlet Protection

Inlets into a sediment basin shall be equipped with energy dissipation measures to prevent scour by reducing runoff velocities and/or shall be equipped with stabilization measures designed to handle peak flow conditions. This can be accomplished through the selection and use of BMPs such as riprap aprons, turf reinforcement matting, and plunge pools.

These BMPs should be provided at all inlets into the basin, including inlets that are submerged, and it is recommended that the invert of each inlet is cited to be at the bottom of the sediment basin to prevent erosion along side slopes. When an invert of a basin inlet is not cited at the bottom of the basin, proper conveyance measures should be proposed to allow runoff to enter the basin without eroding the basin's side slopes.

Sediment Forebay

Each sediment basin should be designed to incorporate the use of a sediment forebay, a settling area or impoundment constructed at the incoming points of stormwater runoff that promotes the settling of coarse particulates away from the basin's outlets. Inclusion of a sediment forebay may also help ease maintenance by allowing for the deposition of the larger suspended particles into an easily accessible area away from the principle spillway.

Proper design, construction, and stabilization of each sediment forebay will promote the required functions of sediment basins. When designing a basin the following criteria on forebays should be addressed:

- **Construction:** A riprap berm, gabion, or an earthen berm with a rock filled outlet should be constructed across the bottom of the sediment basin to create a cell within the basin for use as the sediment forebay. The location and height of this berm should be designed to meet the appropriate sediment forebay volume and depth criteria. Alternatively, plunge pools or rock berms may be constructed around each inlet to create a combined volume behind the berms equal to the minimum sediment forebay volume recommendation.
- **Volume:** The minimum volume provided within the forebay(s) should be twenty percent (20%) of the provided sediment storage volume of the basin.

- **Depth:** The depth of the forebay will be dependant upon the required volume. It is recommended to keep the depth between 2 and 4 feet.
- **Accessibility:** Direct access to the forebay will be necessary to allow for routine cleanout of the accumulated sediment. Side slopes adjacent to the forebay may be graded to create a safe path for equipment to access the forebay, or a maintenance ramp or shelf can be incorporated into the basin's design to allow for direct and easy access to all areas of the sediment basin.
- **Clean Out:** A fixed cleanout stake, solely for use within the sediment forebay is recommended near the forebay berm. This cleanout stake is beneficial since the forebay may become inundated with sediment faster than the rest of the basin. The recommended cleanout height for sediment forebays is 1/2 the height of the forebay's berm.

Photo: Sediment Forebay

Porous Baffles

Located between the sediment forebay and the basin's spillways (outlets), porous baffles must be installed to aid in the dispersion of runoff across the entire width of the basin and to promote sedimentation by reducing turbulence. Baffles function in basins with or without permanent pools.

Proper design, construction, and stabilization of porous baffles will promote the required functions of sediment basins. When designing a basin the following criteria on porous baffles should be addressed:

- **Height:** The recommended height of each baffle is 3 feet. When possible, the height of each baffle should be equal to or above the 10-yr, 24-hour NRCS Storm's design water surface elevation within the sediment basin.
- **Width:** The width of each baffle shall be equal to the entire width of the sediment basin, including the side slopes up to where the height of the baffle intersects the slope.
- **Spacing:** The minimum spacing between baffles should be 10 feet. Baffles should ultimately be placed to maximize the space between each of the rows of baffles and the basin's sediment forebay/spillways and the adjacent baffle row.
- **Materials:** All porous baffles not composed of turf reinforcement matting (TRM) material should consist of materials derived from coir (coconut fibers) products. An example is coir woven

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matting. TRMs should consist of materials that do not have loose Straw fibers. The selected material should have a light penetration (open space) between 10-30%. **Silt Fence may not be used.**

- **Posts:** The posts used to install porous baffles should be steel posts with a minimum weight of 1.25 lb. per liner foot. Install steel posts at a maximum of 4-feet on center.
- **Rows:** A minimum of three (3) porous baffle rows should be installed across the width of the entire basin (including side slopes) where the basin length is greater than 50 feet. For basins with a length of 50 ft or less, only two rows of (2) porous baffles are necessary to be installed.
- **Installation:** All baffles are to be trenched or anchored into the basin's bottom and tied into side slopes to prevent bypass. A rope or wire can be used along the top of the baffle to prevent excessive sagging between the posts.

Photo: Porous Baffles

Rock Berm

A rock berm, typically provided in a horseshoe orientation around the principle spillway, may be provided to restrict the deposition of sediment within the area directly adjacent to the principle spillway. Restriction of sedimentation within this area will promote proper skimmer function. This rock berm is not recommended when a permanent pool of water is designed to remain within the basin during construction.

Proper design and construction of a rock berm around the principle spillway will promote the desired functions of sediment basins. When designing a basin the following criteria on rock berms should be addressed:

- **Installation:** The rock berm is to be installed outside the scopes of the skimmer and associated mechanisms required for proper skimmer performance, such as skimmer pits and/or skimmer rock pads. The berm should completely surround the principle spillway and should be installed upon the sediment basin's embankment slopes up to the elevation where the height of the berm intersects the slope.

- **Width:** The width along the crest of the rock berm should be at a minimum of 2 feet. Wider rock berms may be necessary in larger basins.
- **Height:** The height of a rock berm should range between 2-4 feet, dependent upon the height of the basin.

Photo: Horseshoe Rock Berm Around Principle Spillway with Skimmer

Skimmers

The most common devices used to meet a sediment basin's surface water dewatering requirements are floating skimmers. These skimmers allow for the dewatering of a basin from the top of the water column up to a specified design elevation, which in South Carolina is the 10-yr, NRCS 24-hr Storm's design Water Surface Elevation (WSE).

The discharge through skimmers will approach a somewhat constant flow rate as the water surface elevation rises within the basin. As the elevation of water rises, the skimmer will remain at the top of the water's surface due to a floatation mechanisms incorporated into skimmer designs by the manufacturer. This floatation is typically designed to keep the depth of water above the skimmer's orifice constant as the water surface elevation rises.

Proper design and installation of skimmers will promote the desired functions of sediment basins. When designing a basin the following criteria on skimmers should be addressed:

- **Installation:** All skimmers should be installed based on manufacturer's recommendation. The skimmer should also be installed prior to clearing and grading of a basin's drainage area.
- **Discharge Capacity:** Each skimmer must be designed/selected to allow the sediment basin to have the capacity to pass the 10-yr, NRCS 24-hr storm event within the recommended time of 2-5 days.
- **Skimmer Size:** The size of the skimmer device, which typically reflects the skimmer's orifice size, should be selected to meet the basin discharge capacity requirements. Most skimmer manufacturers provided skimmer sizes ranging from 1.5" up to 8". Orifice size and associated flow rates are product specific and should be based off product-specific testing.

- **Skimmer Orifice Sizing:** In addition to skimmer size, some skimmer manufacturers provide the option to modify the intake orifice of a skimmer through the use of a plug or flap. These modifications are place within or over the skimmer's orifice to provide a smaller orifice size.
- **Additional Options:** Dependent on the skimmer manufacturer's recommendations, additional measures may need to be implemented around, near, or under the skimmer to prevent the skimmer from becoming clogged or stuck within deposited sediment. These additional measures included, and may not be limited to, skimmer pits, rock pads, and rope that is attached to the skimmer and then tied to a secure point along the basin's embankment.

A detail of the selected skimmer should be included on the construction site plans that should reference the skimmer's manufacturer, the Daily Discharge Capacity (ft^3/day), the Average Discharge Rate (cfs), and the Dewatering Time (days). Listing these parameters for each proposed skimmer allows the selection of an equivalent skimmer from an alternative manufacturer, when the need arises.

When selecting an equivalent skimmer, from what was specified on the approved plans, it is important to comply with the following guidance to ensure an "equivalent" skimmer is selected.

- **The Average Discharge Rate (cfs) from the selected skimmer should be equal to or greater than that discharge rate of the approved skimmer.** Any skimmer with a lower Average Discharge Rate would case the peak water surface elevation within the basin to rise during a given storm event.
- **The Daily Discharge Capacity (ft^3/day) from the selected skimmer should be equal to or greater than the discharge capacity of the approved skimmer.** Any skimmer with a Daily Discharge Capacity lower than the approved skimmer would case the peak water surface elevation within the basin to rise during a given storm event.
- **The Dewatering Time should remain within a time frame of 2-5 days.** It is recommended to keep the dewatering time as close to possible to that of the approved skimmer, but complying with this item keeps the basin from dewatering too quickly. The Dewatering Time is equal to the time it takes the skimmer(s) to completely dewater the basin.

Any rise in water surface elevation may allow for more water to flow over the riser crest, increasing the discharge rate of the basin. This potential for increased discharge may reduce the trapping efficiency below the required 80% efficiency.

Failing to follow this guidance would require review and approval of the "equivalent" skimmer prior to implementation (in most cases requiring a Major Modification of the approved plans). All skimmer data should be based off product-specific testing.

Photo: Skimmer with Attached Rope for Ease of Maintenance

Principle Spillway

The Principle Spillway is the primary discharge mechanism for sediment basins. This spillway consists of a riser structure, a barrel (outlet pipe), and surface water dewatering mechanisms (typically a skimmer). The riser structure should also be equipped with a trash rack, an anti-vortex device, and an anti-floatation mechanism.

Proper design and installation of the principle spillway will promote the desired functions of sediment basins. When designing a basin the following criteria on principle spillways should be addressed:

- **Riser:** May be provided as a concrete box/pipe or corrugated pipe. Recommended heights range between 3 and 6 feet.
- **Barrel:** The barrel connects into the riser structure and extends through the basin's embankment to allow impounded stormwater runoff to discharge from the basin. Anti-seep mechanisms must be provided along the barrel to prevent embankment failure.
- **Orifices:** Limit orifices on the riser to those necessary to connect the skimmer device(s). Orifices along the riser in which a skimmer is not connected are not considered to meet the water surface dewatering requirements.
- **Weirs:** Limit the use of weirs along the riser to within 1-foot of the riser crest. Weirs below this elevation are not considered to meet the water surface dewatering requirements.
- **Trash Rack and Anti-Vortex Device:** Equip the riser structure with a trash rack and anti-vortex device to prevent clogging of the principle spillway and non-weir flow over the riser crest.
- **Anti-Floatation Mechanism:** Provide an anchor to prevent floatation of the riser structure. Recommended weight of the anti-floatation mechanism is 1.1 times greater than the weight of the volume of water displaced by the riser structure.
- **10-Yr Design WSE:** The 10-yr design WSE should target the crest of the riser. The maximum head above the riser crest should be limited to 1 foot to maintain water surface dewatering requirements. Basins with permanent pools subject to high ground water tables may be accepted with the 10-yr design WSE more than 1 foot above the riser crest.

Photo: Principle Spillway's Riser Structure with Skimmer

Emergency Spillway

The Emergency Spillway is the secondary discharge mechanism for the sediment basin designed to discharge larger storm events, such as the 100-yr, NRCS 24-hr storm event, from the basin. This spillway consists of a stabilized, open channel along the top of the basin's embankment.

Proper design and installation of the emergency spillway will promote the desired functions of sediment basins. When designing a basin the following criteria on emergency spillways should be addressed:

- **Location:** Where feasible, construct the emergency spillway in natural ground and not over fill material.
- **Elevation:** The crest of the emergency spillway should be at least 1 foot below the top of the basin's embankment. This spillway should also be located 1 foot above the crest of the principle spillway's riser or the 10-yr design WSE whichever is higher.
- **Height:** The height should be at least 1 foot and should be designed to successfully pass the 100-yr, NRCS 24-hr storm event with a freeboard of no less than 0.5 feet between the maximum water surface elevation from this storm event and the basin's embankment.
- **Width:** The width of the emergency spillway should be at a minimum of 10 feet.
- **Side Slopes:** The side slopes of the emergency spillway should be no steeper than a 2:1 slope.
- **Stabilization:** The entirety of the emergency spillway, including side slopes and the embankment's slopes, should be properly stabilized. When located on fill material, this stabilization should consist of rip-rap with underlying geotextile fabric or erosion prevention BMPs capable of conveying the expected velocities without failure.

Outlet Protection

Each of the sediment basin's outlets shall be designed to prevent scour and to reduce velocities during peak flow conditions. This can be accomplished through the selection and design of energy dissipation structures such as riprap aprons. Each outlet should also be directed towards pre-existing point source discharges or be equipped with a mechanism to release the discharge as close to sheet flow as possible, to prevent the creation of new point source discharges. Try to restrict the outlets from being placed within 20 linear feet of adjacent properties lines.

Photo: Principle Spillway's Barrel (Outlet Pipe) with Plunge Pool and Level Spreader

Permanent Pools

Sediment basins located in low-lying areas or areas with high ground water tables may be incapable of avoiding a standing pool of water within the basin. These conditions may result in a permanent pool of water within the basin during the course of construction activities. Under such conditions, the following design criteria will need to be re-evaluated:

- **Sediment Forebay:** The forebay should be located above the permanent pool elevation when possible. If site-specific constraints are limiting, a forebay may not be capable of being provided. Forebays may not be beneficial when the basin's inlets are submerged and there is little to no overland flow to basin during construction.
- **Rock Berm:** The rock berm may prove ineffective under these circumstances and is not recommended to be provided.
- **Cleanout Height:** Sediment should be removed when approximately ½ of the sediment storage volume is lost due to accumulated sediment. Removal of sediment will also need to be conducted when the skimmer mechanism fails to rise and fall with the water surface elevation due to sediment accumulation along riser structure.

Additionally many other aspects, including baffles and skimmers, of a sediment basin may prove challenging or infeasible to provide and may require other solutions to design a basin that remains in compliance with South Carolina requirements. This is especially true along the coastal regions of South Carolina where relatively flat topography and high water tables limit the depth of basins.

One option to address such circumstances is the use of a single weir as water surface dewatering mechanism. Allowance of this practice may be dependent upon the following:

- The basin's length-to-width ratio;
- The prevention of short-circuiting between the basin's inlets and outlets;
- Whether or not the basin's inlets are submerged;
- The dispersion of flow within the basin;
- The depth of the permanent pool; and
- The maximum head on the weir crest during the 10-yr, NRCS 24-hr storm event.

Another practice to consider when designing a sediment basin with a permanent pool is turbidity curtains. This practice provides an impermeable liner along the entirety of the water column and only allows flow to discharge near the top of the water surface. Upon proper selection and implementation, turbidity curtains may be capable of enhancing the sedimentation process, dispersion of flow, dewatering from the top of the water surface, and restricting the accumulation of sediment near or around the outlet structure.

The use of these suggested practices must be approved prior to being implemented at the construction site.

Inspections & Maintenance

The key to a functional sediment basin is continual inspections, routine maintenance and regular sediment removal. Each sediment basin should be inspected at a minimum of once every calendar week. It is also recommended to inspect sediment basins within 24 hours of a storm event producing 0.5" of precipitation or greater.

Any deficiencies noted during an inspection of the basin must be addressed within 7 calendar days, before the next scheduled inspection, or before the next storm event.

Over the course of the construction project, accumulated sediment will need to be removed from the basin. Ultimately, the accumulated sediment will need to be removed once it reaches ½ of the provided sediment storage volume within the sediment basin but it is recommended to cleanout certain sections of the sediment basin (such as the sediment forebay and the cells between the porous baffles) more frequently. For this reason the following sediment removal procedures may be necessary.

- **Sediment Forebay:** Accumulated sediment should be removed from the forebay when the elevation of the deposited sediment reaches 1/2 the height of the forebay's berm.
- **Porous Baffles' Cells:** Accumulated sediment should be removed from the cells created by each row of baffles when the elevation of the deposited sediment reaches 1/2 the height of the baffles or the cleanout mark located on the cleanout stake, whichever is lower.
- **Rock Berm:** Accumulated sediment should be removed from in front of the rock berm when the elevation of the deposited sediment reaches 1/2 the height of the berm or the cleanout mark located on the cleanout stake, whichever is lower.

When accumulated sediment is removed from a sediment basin, it should be placed in designated stockpile storage areas or spread thinly across the disturbed area and promptly stabilized.

Accumulate sediment is not the only issue that may prevent proper sediment basin functions. Additional maintenance issues that are commonly required to maintain sediment basins are listed in the table located on the following page.

Identified Sediment Basin Condition	Maintenance Measures To Be Taken
Outlet pipe (barrel) is clogged with debris.	Remove debris. Modify trash rack at top of riser structure to restrict larger debris particles from entering the outlet pipe.
Emergency Spillway has eroded due to high discharge velocities during recent storm event.	Stabilize spillway with Erosion Control Blankets (ECBs) or Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRMs) with higher sheer stress capabilities. Alternatively, stabilize spillway with Rip-Rap sized to address anticipated velocities. Extend stabilization down the embankment's interior and exterior slopes, if not already provided.
Basin's side slopes are eroding. The formation of rills and gullies are evident.	Re-grade slopes and provide proper tracking techniques. Seed slopes and stabilize with ECBs, TRMs, or equivalent erosion prevention BMPs, as necessary. Ensure that the slopes are graded correctly. **Do not fill rills/gullies with rip-rap.** Inspect upland areas for evidence of concentrated flows towards slopes. If evident provide a stabilized conveyance method to prevent further erosion along the slope.
Excessive accumulated sediment identified in basin.	Remove sediment to the elevations as denoted on the plans. Place removed sediment in stockpiles or across disturbed areas.
Principle Spillway and Embankment Failure.	Contact regulatory inspection agency. Install temporary BMP measures and stabilize disturbed areas to keep additional impacts to a minimum. Removal of any off-site sediment impacts should be done so at adjacent property owner's consent.
Skimmer is stuck or is clogged with debris.	Use rope to free skimmer from mud. Clear debris from skimmer orifice and install anti-clog mechanism.
Inlets of basin cited for scouring which is increasing erosion within basin.	Stabilize each inlet with Rip-Rap Aprons. Be sure to extend rip-rap above inlet pipe or into inlet channel.

Basin Removal

Sediment Basin may be removed when all areas discharging to the basin have reached final stabilization or when the conditions listed within the approved On-Site SWPPP have been met. In most circumstances, the basin will not be removed but converted to a detention pond to serve the site post-construction.

When a basin is to be removed, it should be completed within 30 days after final site stabilization is achieved or when the approved conditions indicate removal requirements have been met. All areas disturbed as a result of the sediment basin removal will need to be permanently stabilized. Additional BMPs, such as silt fence may need to be utilized to accept runoff from this area until final stabilization is reached.

Design Aids

The following design methodology (Hayes et al. 1995) may be used to design sediment basins to meet the 80 percent trapping efficiency requirements for TSS, which has a drainage area limitation of 30 acres. Alternatively computer models that utilize eroded particle size distributions to calculate a corresponding trapping efficiency may also be used; these models may allow larger drainage areas.

The listed methodology utilizes an eroded particle diameter from on-site soils to determine the settling velocity associated with the soil's specified particle diameter, the surface area of the basin at the riser crest, and the 10-yr, NRCS 24-hr peak outflow from the basin. These three parameters will then be used to calculate a Basin Ratio that can then be used to determine the trapping efficiency from **Figure SB-1** or **SB-2** located in **Appendix K** of SC DHEC's Stormwater BMP Handbook.

Unfortunately, the majority of the available methodologies and computer models may not take into account the anticipated benefits of the various components of the sediment basin, such as water surface withdrawal, porous baffles, and the sediment forebay.

The suggested procedure to determine the trapping efficiency is outlined below.

Calculating the Trapping Efficiency of a Sediment Basin

1. **Determine on-site soils' characteristic eroded particle diameter.** Each soil has a unique eroded particle diameter and the D_{15} (the particle diameter in which only 15% of the soil particle diameters are less than). To determine the D_{15} use **Appendix E** of SC DHEC's Stormwater BMP Handbook to look up the smallest D_{15} listed for all soils identified on-site.
2. **Determine the characteristic settling velocity of on-site soils.** Use **Figure SV-1**, found in **Appendix K**, which plots eroded particle diameter (D_{15}) versus settling velocity (V_{15}), to determine the value of the settling velocity. This unit is provided in feet per second (fps).
3. **Calculate the Basin Ratio.** Use the provided formula to calculate the Basin Ratio (BR).

$$\text{Basin Ratio} = \frac{q_{po}}{A\,V_{15}}$$

Where:

q_{po} = Peak Outflow Rate from the Basin for the 10-yr, NRCS 24-hr Storm Event (cfs),
A = Surface Area of the Basin at the Riser Crest (acres),
V_{15} = Characteristic Settling Velocity (fps) of the Characteristic D_{15} Eroded Particle (mm).

4. **Determine Trapping Efficiency.** Use **Figure SB-1** or **Figure SB-2** to determine the trapping efficiency with the Basin Ratio calculated in step 3. These figures plot trapping efficiency versus the basin ratio, and each figure is for separate conditions identified as follows:
    - **Figure SB-1** is for basins not located in low lying areas and/or not having a high water table.
    - **Figure SB-2** is for basin located in low lying areas and/or having a high water table. This figure is appropriate for Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) D soils classified as such due to the presence of a high water table. HSGs A/D, B/D, and C/D are also considered to have high water tables based upon the characteristics of dual hydrologic soil groups.

When using this methodology the following design constraints must be considered:

- Drainage Area to the Sediment Basin must be less than or equal to 30 Acres.
- Overland slope of this drainage area must be less than or equal to 20 percent.
- The sediment basin's Barrel (outlet pipe) must be less than or equal to 6 feet in diameter.
- Any Basin Ratios above the design curves on **Figures SB-1** and **SB-2** are not recommended for any application of the design aids.
- This methodology is not applicable to sediment basins in series.

Additional design guidance on this methodology is as follows:

- If the Basin Ratio intersects the design curve at a point having a trapping efficiency of less than the desired value, the design is inadequate and must be revised.
- A basin, **not** located in low lying area and not having a high water table, has a basin ratio equal to 2.20 E5 at 80 percent trapping efficiency as shown in **Figure SB-1**.
- A basin that **is** located in low lying area and does not have a high water table, has a basin ratio equal to 4.7 E3 at 80 percent trapping efficiency as shown in **Figure SB-2**.

Design Example

Design a sediment basin to accept stormwater runoff from a 14-acre (0.0219 mi2) construction site during construction conditions. Assume the entire area is disturbed and discharges into the sediment basin. (There are no additional discharges to the basin.) The proposed location of the sediment basin is not located in low-lying areas and does not have a high water table. The only constraint on the size of the basin is to limit the surface area at the basin's riser crest to 0.75 acres. Soil Maps indicate that both Cecil and Edisto soil types are found on-site. Calculate the trapping efficiency of the basin for a 10-year, NRCS 24-hour storm event with and without the use of a skimmer. (The peak discharge from the basin is 8.5 cfs when a skimmer is not employed. Assume that no weir flow occurs across riser crest when skimmer is employed.)

Skimmer Manufacturer Information

Skimmer Size	1.5"	2"	2.5"	3"	4"	5"	6"	8"
3 Day Discharge Capacity (Cubic Feet)	5500	10200	19500	31250	64500	102250	165580	298500

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Design Example's Given and Find Information

Given:
- Drainage Area = 14 Acres (0.0219 mi2)
- A = 0.75 Acres (at Riser Crest)
- Cecil and Edisto Soil Types
- Not in Low-Lying Areas.
- There is not a High Water Table.
- Peak Discharge without Skimmer = 8.5 cfs

Find:
- Trapping Efficiency with Skimmer
- Trapping Efficiency without Skimmer

Solution 1 (No Skimmer):

1. **Determine D_{15}.** From Appendix E, determine the smallest D_{15} for both Cecil and Edisto Type Soils.
   - **a.** For Cecil Soils, D_{15} = 0.0043 mm
   - **b.** For Edisto Soils, D_{15} = 0.0093 mm

   Since Cecil has the smallest D_{15}, use **0.0043 mm**.
2. **Determine V_{15}.** From Appendix K, use Figure SV-1 to determine the V_{15}. From this figure and use a D_{15} = 0.0043 mm (from step 1), the V_{15} will be approximately **5.19 E-05 fps**.

   Alternatively, this may be calculated from the following equation $V_{15}=2.81(D_{15})^2$. (This equation may only be used if D_{15} is less than 0.01 mm.)
3. **Calculate Basin Ratio.** Calculate the Basin Ratio using the given information and the V_{15} determined is step 2.

$$\mathbf{BR} = \frac{\mathbf{(8.5\ cfs)}}{\mathbf{(0.75\ Acres)(5.19\ E\text{-}05\ fps)}}$$

BR = 218,368.65

4. **Determine Trapping Efficiency.** Determine the trapping efficiency using the calculated BR from step 3 and Figure SB-1 from Appendix K.

Trapping Efficiency = ~80%

Solution 2 (Skimmer):

1. **Discharge Volume.** The discharge volume could be estimated using the recommended sediment storage volume (3600 cubic feet per acre draining) as the discharge volume but, when known, the volume beneath the riser crest should be used as the discharge volume. For this example the sediment storage volume will be used.

   Calculate the required volume that the skimmer must have the capacity to discharge.

$$\textbf{Discharge Volume} = \frac{\mathbf{3600\ ft^3}}{\mathbf{Acre}} \times \mathbf{14\ Acres} = \mathbf{50{,}400\ ft^3}$$

2. **Calculate 3-Day Skimmer Dewatering Discharge.** Use the calculated discharge volume to select a skimmer based off the provided manufacturer's 3-Day Discharge Capacity. In order to

discharge 50,400 cubic feet within 3 days, select the 4" skimmer since it can discharge 64,500 cubic feet in 3 days.

Determine the average discharge rate through the skimmer in cubic feet per second (cfs) using the 4" skimmer's discharge capacity. (The manufacturer may directly cite the average discharge rate.)

$$\frac{\textbf{64,500 ft3}}{\textbf{3 days}} \times \frac{\textbf{1 day}}{\textbf{24 hrs}} \times \frac{\textbf{1 hour}}{\textbf{60 mins}} \times \frac{\textbf{1 min}}{\textbf{60 secs}} = \textbf{0.249 cfs}$$

Note: This average discharge rate of 0.249 cfs assumes that water does not overtop the riser crest during the 10-yr storm event. Basin routing should be conducted to confirm this. The peak discharge from the basin will be greater if the Water Surface Elevation (WSE) during this storm event overtops the riser crest. If the WSE is more than 1 foot above the riser crest, a larger or multiple skimmers may be necessary.

3. **Determine D15.** From Appendix E, determine the smallest D_{15} for both Cecil and Edisto Type Soils.
   - **a.** For Cecil Soils, D_{15} = 0.0043 mm
   - **b.** For Edisto Soils, D_{15} = 0.0093 mm

   Since Cecil has the smallest D_{15}, use **0.0043 mm**.

4. **Determine V15.** From Appendix K, use Figure SV-1 to determine the V_{15}. From this figure and use a D_{15} = 0.0043 mm (from step 1), the V_{15} will be approximately **5.19 E-05 fps**.

   Alternatively, this may be calculated from the following equation $V_{15}=2.81(D_{15})^2$. (This equation may only be used if D_{15} is less than 0.01 mm.)

5. **Calculate Basin Ratio.** Calculate the Basin Ratio using the given information and the V_{15} determined is step 2.

$$\textbf{BR} = \frac{\textbf{(0.249 cfs)}}{\textbf{(0.75 Acres)(5.19 E-05 fps)}}$$

BR = 6396.92

6. **Determine Trapping Efficiency.** Determine the trapping efficiency using the calculated BR from step 3 and Figure SB-1 from Appendix K.

Trapping Efficiency = ~92.5%

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