

# Sediment Forebays



**Description:** A sediment forebay is a post-construction practice consisting of an excavated pit, bermed area, or cast structure combined with a weir, designed to slow incoming stormwater runoff and facilitating the gravity separation of suspended solids. This practice is different from a sediment trap used as a construction period BMP.

## Ability to meet specific standards

Standard	Description
2 - Peak Flow	Provides no peak flow attenuation
3 - Recharge	Provides no groundwater recharge
4 - TSS Removal	MassDEP requires a sediment forebay as pretreatment before stormwater is discharged to an extended dry detention basin, wet basin, constructed stormwater wetland or infiltration basin. No separate credit is given for the sediment forebay. For example, extended dry detention basins with sediment forebays receive a credit for 50% TSS removal. Wet basins and constructed stormwater wetlands with sediment forebays receive a credit for 80% TSS removal. When they provide pretreatment for other BMPs, sediment forebays receive a 25% TSS removal credit.
5 - Higher Pollutant Loading	Recommended as a pretreatment BMP
6 - Discharges near or to Critical Areas	Recommended as a pretreatment BMP
7 - Redevelopment	Usually not suitable due to land use constraints

## Advantages/Benefits:

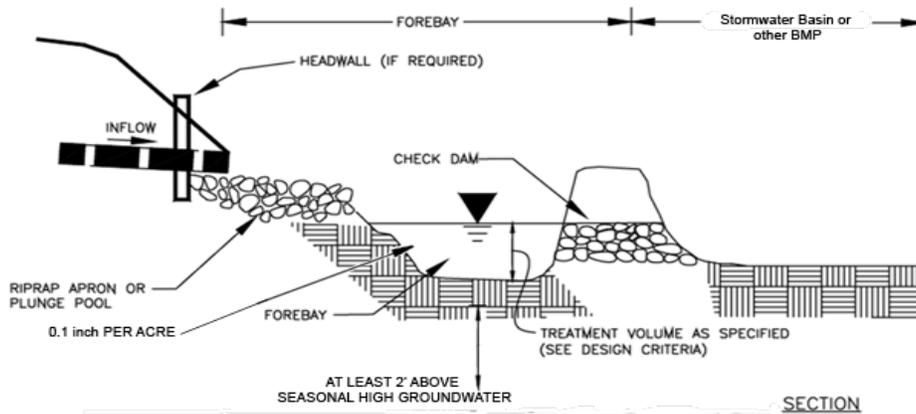
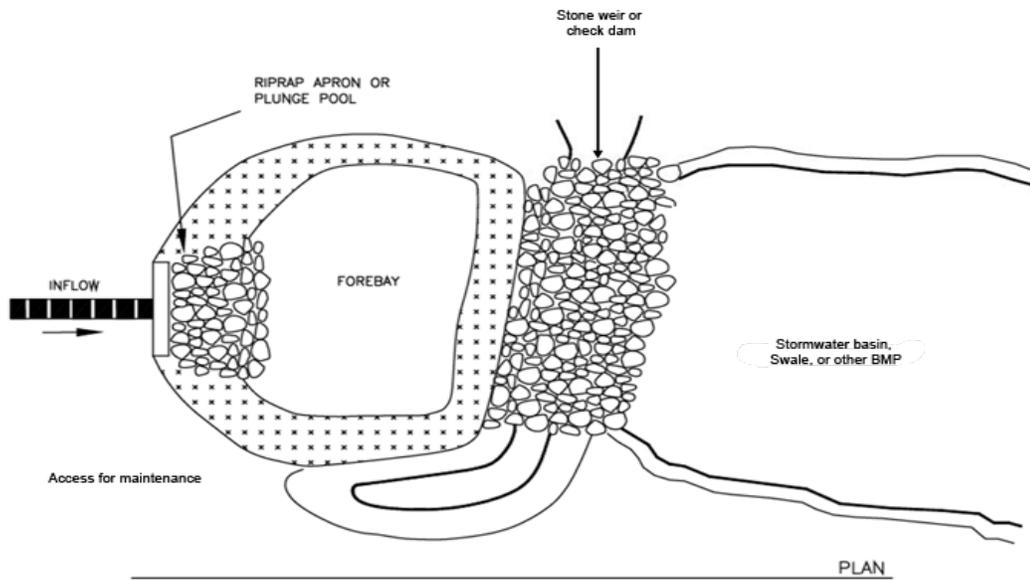
- Provides pretreatment of runoff before delivery to other BMPs.
- Slows velocities of incoming stormwater
- Easily accessed for sediment removal
- Longevity is high with proper maintenance
- Relatively inexpensive compared to other BMPs
- Greater detention time than proprietary separators

## Disadvantages/Limitations:

- Removes only coarse sediment fractions
- No removal of soluble pollutants
- Provides no recharge to groundwater
- No control of the volume of runoff
- Frequent maintenance is essential

## Pollutant Removal Efficiencies

- Total Suspended Solids (TSS) - 25%
- Nutrients (Nitrogen, phosphorus) - Insufficient data
- Metals (copper, lead, zinc, cadmium) - Insufficient data
- Pathogens (coliform, e coli) - Insufficient data



adapted from the Vermont Stormwater Handbook

## Maintenance

Activity	Frequency
Inspect sediment forebays	Monthly
Clean sediment forebays	Four times per year and when sediment depth is between 3 to 6 feet.

## Special Features

MassDEP requires a sediment forebay as pretreatment before discharging to a dry extended detention basin, wet basin, constructed stormwater wetland, or infiltration basin.

MassDEP uses the term sediment forebay for BMPs used to pretreat stormwater after construction is complete and the site is stabilized. MassDEP uses the term sediment trap to refer to BMPs used for erosion and sedimentation control during construction. For information on the design and construction of sediment traps used during construction, consult the Massachusetts Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas: A Guide for Planners, Designers and Municipal Officials.