



## Facts About: Wet Ponds

### Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Wet ponds, or retention ponds, are constructed basins that maintain a permanent pool of water throughout the year. Sediments settle as water slowly moves from one end of the pond to the other while other pollutants such as phosphorus are removed through plants that absorb excess nutrients. This helps to improve the health of streams and rivers, making our waters fishable and swimmable and improving the quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

### Wet Ponds

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A **micropool** is provided in an extended detention pond to prevent the resuspension of previously settled sediments and to prevent clogging. **Multiple pond systems** remove more pollutants by providing water quality treatment in two or more pools of water. A **pocket pond** is characterized by a small drainage area; the water level is sustained by groundwater during dry weather. **Wet extended detention ponds** provide water quality storage through a combination of a permanent pool and extended detention storage. A **wet pond** stores water and provides water quality treatment in a permanent pool.



*Wet pond*



*Pocket pond*

### Design Variants

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- Micropool extended detention pond
- Multiple pond system
- Pocket pond
- Wet extended detention pond
- Wet pond

## Pollutant Removal Efficiencies

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- Sediments 90%
- Phosphorus 60%
- Nitrogen 50% (as part of a system of environmental site design practices)

## More Information

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For more specific information on design criteria, go to Maryland's Stormwater Design Manual:  
[mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Pages/stormwater\\_design.aspx](http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Pages/stormwater_design.aspx)