



## BMP Location

Stormwater features can be divided into five categories based on their primary role in recreating the natural water cycle: 1) retention 2) infiltration 3) detention 4) wetland and 5) filtration devices. The major factors in selecting stormwater features are pollutant treatment needs, physical characteristics of the site, environmental and neighborhood factors.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Slope
- Pollutants
- Stormwater Quality Volume
- Soils
- Impervious surfaces
- Aesthetics
- Regulations



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## Determining the BMP Location



The location of your water feature is important for determining both its shape and type. Your site inventory will be key for determining ideal locations. Strong considerations must be given to the topography and drainage of your property, the location of your downspouts, and any ponding that occurs. As well you must be aware of constraints such as utilities, soil type and water table.

### Topography and Drainage

- The water feature should be located at a low lying area of your property. This allows it to intercept the majority of the water run-off that flows through the property.
- The water feature should be along a slope to allow for a natural flow of water through it.

### Downspouts

- The important question to consider with your downspouts is can they drain to the water feature? If so, the water feature needs to be placed downhill from the downspouts. If not, a cistern or rain barrel can be used to collect the water.

### Ponding

- Ponding can be a serious problem for both the aesthetics and functionality of your landscape, however it provides a great opportunity for a rain garden. If the ponding drains within 3 days, a rain garden could be the perfect solution or a series of water features can be built on the slope leading to the ponding to reduce ponding. If the ponding takes longer than 3 days to drain, a wetland garden might be an alternative solution.

### Constraints

- **UTILITIES!** Avoiding your utilities is a top priority. To learn the location of all your utilities **call 811**. Your water feature **MUST** be downhill from any house crawl space or basement, wellhead, and septic system drain field. It is suggested that all water features remain at least 10 ft from the house crawl space or basement and wellhead and 25 ft downhill or laterally from a septic system drain field. Other state and local regulations might apply.
- Soil type can also be a limiting factor in your BMP location and type choices.
  - \* Before making a final decision on the location of water feature, you must conduct an infiltration test on all possible sites.
  - \* You can mitigate slow draining areas with an underdrain if necessary.

**And don't forget aesthetics! Where do you want your water feature?**