

MGWC 4.5: DEPRESSED CULVERTS

*Depressed instream culverts to encourage
fish passage and channelization*

DESCRIPTION

The work should consist of depressing instream culverts 1 foot (0.3 meters) below the natural stream invert.

EFFECTIVE USES & LIMITATIONS

Depressed culverts encourage channelization and enhance fish passage by allowing water to pool and sediments to deposit in the culvert barrel. During storm events, deposited sediments wash away, insuring the effectiveness and integrity of the culvert.

Depressed culverts may not be suited to streams with high slope gradients since high flow velocities may scour the barrel and restrict sedimentation.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Construction of depressed culverts should proceed the same as for standard culverts as detailed in [MGWC 4.3: Culvert Installation](#). In the case of double or triple-celled culverts, only one or two cells should be depressed as necessary. Additionally, the streambed adjacent to the entrance and exit of the barrel should be reinforced with riprap and filter fabric.

Refer to [Detail 4.5](#) for typical details of depressed culverts.

Maryland's Guidelines To Waterway Construction

DETAIL 4.5: DEPRESSED CULVERTS

