

Bio-swale

Bio-swales are vegetated channels or depressions. But, don't confuse a bio-swale with a grassy ditch! Bio-swales are best management practices (BMP's) that use native vegetation such as prairie grasses and shrubs to improve the quality of stormwater from paved areas.

How they work

Bio-swales are, in effect, mini water quality basins. They collect and disperse stormwater. Native plants in the swale help filter sediment, remove chemicals (especially fertilizer), and help the soil absorb water. Under-drains may be installed as overflow devices, which inter-connect depressions set in series, as would be found within islands of parking areas.

Mowed Grass Doesn't Cut it

Fescue grass is better than no grass for erosion. But native plants absorb more pollutants and have stronger and deeper roots than fescue does.

