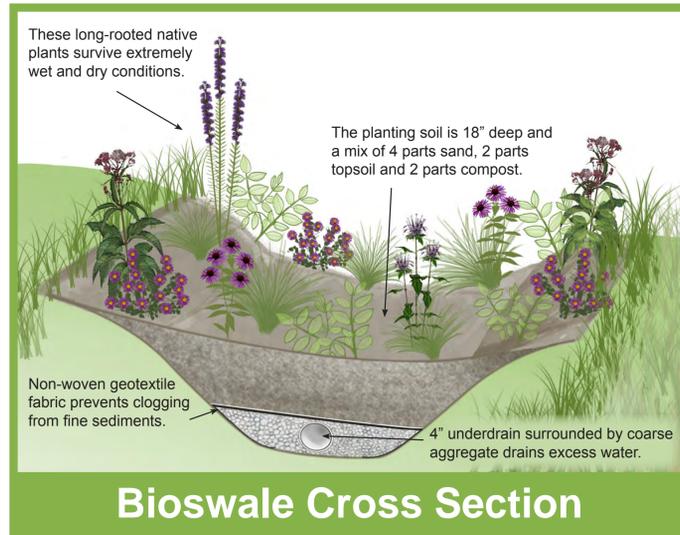




Vegetated Swales

Intercept and Treat Surface Water Runoff



Bioswale Cross Section

How Do They Work?

Vegetated swales, also known as bioswales or biofilters, are sloped, low-lying areas designed to capture and treat stormwater. The swales collect stormwater runoff and allow it to soak into the ground at a slower rate.

Specialized native plants help to treat the stormwater by absorbing pollutants and filtering suspended sediments. This improves the quality of the surface water entering the reservoir.

Can You Spot These

Bioswale Beauties?



Prairie Blazing Star



Cardinal Flower



Yellow Nutsedge



Great Blue Lobelia

Stormwater begins as rainfall, snow melt, or other water which runs off impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways and rooftops.

As it flows, stormwater can collect a variety of contaminants including oils, sediments and chemicals.

Asphalt parking lots speed the run-off of stormwater, contribute additional pollutants and prevent infiltration.

Bioswales intercept and capture stormwater flow. Suspended sediments settle out and plants uptake nutrients and other pollutants.

Stormwater slowly filters into the ground, reducing the volume of untreated water entering the reservoir.

Trees and Native Vegetation

provide an important buffer around the water's edge. Trees and plants capture and hold nutrients, slow the flow of surface water runoff and return water to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration.

You Can Work With Nature To Protect Stormwater:

Keep it Cleaner

- Hand pick or spot treat weeds to minimize chemical use
- Replace high-maintenance turf grass with native perennials
- Dispose of yard waste properly, never in a storm drain or stream
- Keep oil, dirt, detergents and pesticides from entering storm drains

Reduce the Flow

- Minimize the use of impervious or hard surfaces
- Maintain healthy vegetative buffers around waterways
- Use rain barrels, rain gardens and bioswales to capture the flow

Did You Know?

Water Fact:

Urbanization and increases in impervious cover are significant threats to the protection of high-quality drinking water sources and aquatic habitats.