

South Fork Kent Creek Watershed
Developed Area Best Management Practices:

Vegetated Swales

Vegetated swales are shallow channels or swales vegetated with deep rooted plants, which filter out pollutants and slow stormwater. Similar to filter strips, vegetated swales intercept stormwater runoff from nearby impervious areas. Their primary function is to filter pollutants and sediment from stormwater runoff.

Benefits:

- ✓ Collect stormwater sediment
- ✓ Filter pollutants
- ✓ Slow stormwater runoff



Permeable paving drains into a vegetated swale at Elmhurst College



Agrecol Native Nursery Swale Mix

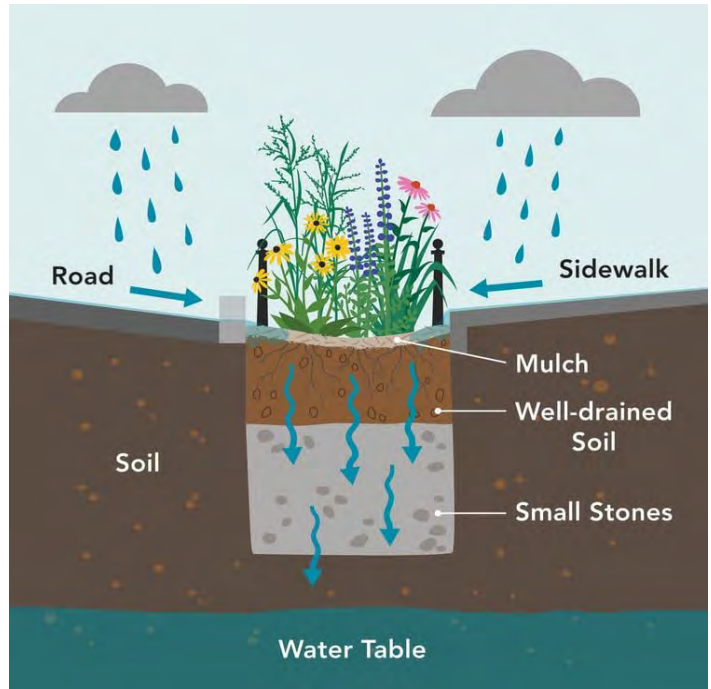
Vegetated swales can be applied in most development situations with few restrictions. They are well-suited to treat highway or residential road stormwater runoff due to their linear nature.

Applicable locations: at the end of drains or buildings, adjacent to impervious surfaces such as parking lots and roads

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Vegetated swales must be sized to allow runoff sufficient contact time within the swales, such as shallow water depths and low velocities, for adequate pollutant removal to occur. In designing these swales, they also must consider drainage area, soils, and the volume control storage. Swales utilize drainage pipes, well-drained soils, and/or gravel underneath vegetation to aid in water infiltration. Any existing ditches planted with turf grass are a great location to convert to vegetated swales, simply by removing turf grass and installing native vegetation suitable for that location.



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