

VEGETATIVE SWALE

Retaining and treating stormwater

Vegetative swales, a type of drainage basin, help improve water quality by mimicking nature. Plant species selected for vegetative swales may include wetland grass seed mixes, Three Leaf Sumac, and trees such as Willow and Cottonwood. Native plants are recommended and species are typically chosen based on adaptability, aesthetic properties, hardiness and functional abilities within a swale. Plant survival is based on a number of factors such as fluctuating water levels, access to nutrients, and pollutants.

Vegetative swales optimize landscape function by slowing and holding rainwater with their stalks, stems, branches and foliage. Plant roots also increase soil strength and stability reducing erosion. Stop and listen. Amphibians, reptiles, birds and insects live near native vegetation because it provides protection and a sources of food. Vegetation stabilizes shorelines while adding a variety of texture, color and contrast.



**Look around
What do you see?**

Vegetation softens the edges of shorelines and structures while adding a variety of texture, color, and contrast.

