

# VEGETATED SWALE

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES GUIDANCE FOR PRIVATE OWNERS

### WHAT ARE VEGETATED SWALES?

Vegetated swales are gently sloping, densely vegetated earthen channels that collect and transport stormwater. Stormwater enters the channel and is slowed by the vegetation that grows in the swale. As the runoff velocity is lowered, sediments and pollutants are removed by the filtering action of vegetation.

Vegetated swales should not include permanent check dams. While swales will often have stone check dams installed during construction to help with erosion control, these should be removed once construction is complete and any bare areas should be vegetated.

Swales that are included in your stormwater management plan are required to be maintained in accordance with the approved plan. See the maintenance chart for some general requirements.

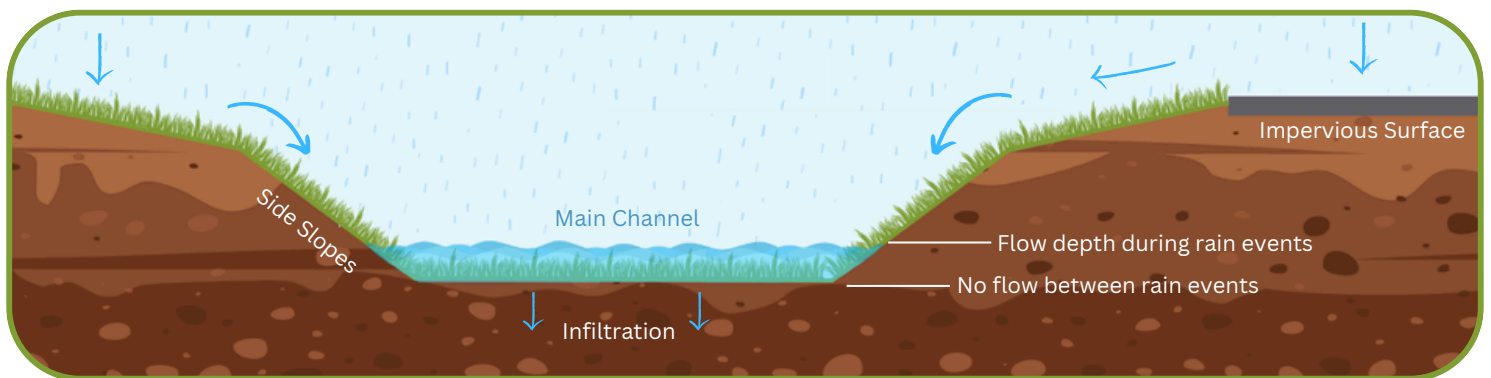
#### ADVANTAGES

- Relatively low cost
- Easily to construct and maintain
- Very effective in preventing erosion
- Capable of carrying large quantities of stormwater
- Reduce temperature of stormwater



### MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Activity	Frequency	Maintenance Notes
Routine Inspection	Twice per year	Perform a routine inspection twice a year to ensure the swale is operating properly and there are no potential problems such as erosion, unwanted vegetation, obstructions, or low spots.
Vegetation Management	As needed	Vegetation plays a crucial role in the efficiency of a swale and requires routine maintenance as needed. Routine vegetation management on a swale includes mowing, keeping the channel clear of woody vegetation and reseeding any barren areas.
Trash & Debris Removal	Every 1-3 months	Swales should be kept clear of debris to allow stormwater to flow as intended.
Sediment Removal	As needed	Over time, sediment buildup can alter the flow within your swale. To keep your swale functioning optimally, inspect for sediment build up and removed all accumulated sediment.



For more information regarding  
Stormwater Management in Dane  
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