

# Enhanced Grassed Swale Maintenance Guide

Enhanced grassed swales are vegetated open channels that are designed to capture and treat storm water runoff. Swale pollution removal effectiveness is provided mainly by infiltration. Pollutant removal rates for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP) are greatly increased if check dams are incorporated in the design.

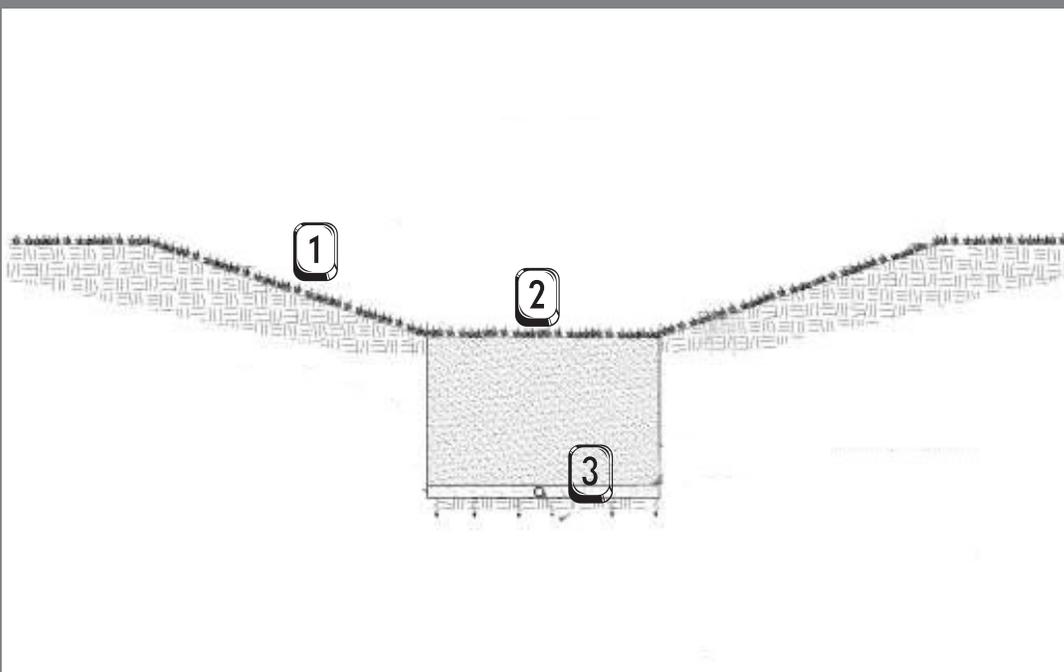
## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Enhanced grassed swales differ from normal drainage channels through the incorporation of specific features such as underdrains and amended soil media that enhance storm water pollutant removal effectiveness.

- 1 Slopes are designed to force the water flow to be slow and shallow, allowing for particulates to settle and limit the effects of erosion.
- 2 Flow passes through the channel where it is filtered through the amended soil media and vegetation.
- 3 Runoff is collected and conveyed by a perforated pipe and gravel underdrain system to the outlet.



## ENHANCED GRASS SWALE SCHEMATIC



## REMEMBER

Enhanced Grassed Swales can have aesthetic concerns if they are not adequately maintained.

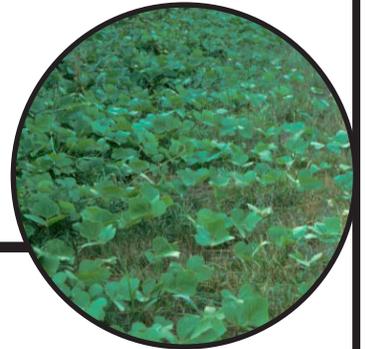
They cannot be used on steep slopes.

Maximum ponding duration is 48 hours and minimum ponding duration is 30 minutes.

# ENHANCED GRASS SWALE MAINTENANCE TASKS AND SCHEDULE



| TASK  | SCHEDULE  |
|---|---|
| Inspect for clogging  | Monthly   |
| Inspection/stabilization of eroded areas                        | Monthly   |
| Inspect for unwanted vegetation                                 | Monthly   |
| Debris/trash removal  | Weekly - prior to mowing  |
| Reseed/Overseed Swale and/or replace dead or missing vegetation | Yearly  |
| Inspect/maintain any dispersion devices and check dams          | Yearly  |
| Underdrain inspection/cleanout                                  | Yearly  |
| Mow to maintain grass height 3-6"                               | Weekly (during growing season) to Monthly (non-growing season). |
| Removal of sediment   | Yearly  |



- Regular inspections, especially after rain events, are important to ensure that the Enhanced Grassed Swale is functioning properly.
- Preventative maintenance will help you avoid costly corrective maintenance and repairs.
- If the Enhanced Grass Swale is not functioning properly, such as unusual water levels, call 311. An inspector will help you determine what the issue is so repairs can be made.