

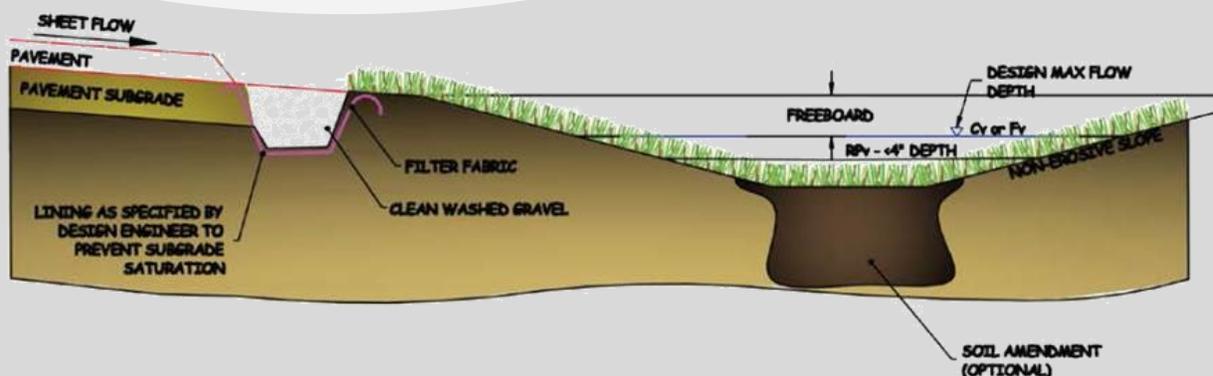
# BIOSWALE MAINTENANCE FACT SHEET



*Sussex*  
**conservation  
district**  
PREPARE. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

Bioswales are “Green Technology” practices that are engineered to meet specific design standards including flow depth, slope, bottom width, side slopes, and contributory drainage area and residence time in order to adequately treat and convey surface runoff. Bioswales are a water quality best management practice that can be utilized to comply with Delaware Sediment and Stormwater Regulations for changes to the land use in the creation of impervious surfaces in the watershed. Bioswales are considered low-maintenance and are located in community open space or in drainage/stormwater easements.

- ◆ **Inspection:** Semi-annual (Spring and Fall) and after storm event of two inches of rain or more.
- ◆ **Trash & Debris:** Remove trash and debris on a regular basis.
- ◆ **Erosion:** Stabilize applicable eroded areas with rolled erosion control products (RECP) or turf reinforcing mats (TRM), as required. If RCEP is applied, it is recommended to use truly biodegradable products to aid in mowing maintenance and deter wildlife entanglement. These products can be recognized as having “BN” for “B” for biodegradable.
- ◆ **Mowing:** If turf cover is used mow regularly; weekly from April to November. Mow in lower than six inches to maintain desired design height. The vegetation height should
- ◆ **Check Dams:** Remove material that accumulates on the upstream face of the check dams. Remove all vegetation that extends roots within the check dams manually and apply herbicides as necessary to eliminate herbaceous species with persistent roots.
- ◆ **Sediment Forebays:** Where sediment forebays are provided, remove sediments accumulated in the forebay once that are half filled or to the designed depth. A depth marker should be provided in the forebay to guide the inspection requirements. If forebays are not provided, remove visible accumulations of sediment with rake and flat shovel.
- ◆ **Hire a Professional:** If ponding is observed; if facility does not drain within 48 hours; replacement of deteriorating pipes or structural component; facility reconstruction; repair of severe erosion; aquatic vegetation control (chemical application) if licensing required by DE Department of Agriculture.





Bioswales can be enhanced with native plantings. Recommend consulting with community HOA and the Sussex Conservation District before proceeding with implementation.

Communities are encouraged to allow the bioswales to grow with native grasses; however, the bioswales should be mowed at least once or selectively cut to minimize the growth of saplings. Recommend mowing in mid-March before new growth emerges.



## BIOSWALE DON'TS

**DO NOT** mow following rain event. A lawn tractor can create tire ruts in the bottom of the flow channel

**DO NOT** fill in your swale

**DO NOT** park on or drive across your swale. Cars and tire tracks can blow water flow

**DO NOT** do anything to cause the side slopes of your swale to erode

**DO NOT** place sprinkler heads in the swale

**DO NOT** over-irrigate the swale



It is recommended that the swale be mowed no lower than 6 inches to maintain a desired grass height.



PREPARE. PROTECT. PRESERVE.