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sustainable landscape design
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Sustainable Advice - Bioswales

SUMMARY:

Traditional site engineering diverts stormwater into turfgrass swales and moves it quickly to a stormwater management area.

Bioswales are planted with plants that help absorb the rainwater, and is constructed with materials that encourage stormwater to absorb into the ground.

Benefits include stormwater/flooding management, groundwater recharge, erosion control, water filtration.



Bioswales are a great way to manage stormwater more naturally. Traditional site engineering diverts stormwater into turf grass swales and moves the water quickly to stormwater management areas. The water doesn't have a chance to absorb into the ground. The water also tends to carry with it pollutants and sedimentation that it picks up along the way.

Bioswales offer a more natural approach to stormwater management. The swales are designed so slow water down and allow it to be filtered and absorbed by the plants and soils in the swale. The swale is typically made from a special mix of soil that helps absorb, filter and store water. The swale is planted with vegetation that is excellent at absorbing water. There are typically drains located throughout the swale to handle excess water from large storm events. Another added benefit is that bioswales do a great job removing pollutants from stormwater and helps recharge the groundwater supply.

Bioswales can be used in any project needing natural stormwater management solutions.

