

## Grassy Bio-Infiltration Swales

Grassy Bio-Infiltration Swales are grassed depression areas that are used to store and treat stormwater runoff. The vegetation and soils in the swale helps to filter pollutants from stormwater prior to infiltrating deeper into the ground. Within a swale there is typically an elevated grate (4" to 6" above the grass) that is the cover for a drywell. The drywell receives overflow from the swale in the event of excessive runoff.

### Maintenance Responsibilities

It is typically the responsibility of the individual property owner to maintain the swale on their property. The Stormwater Utility does maintain a number of swales built in conjunction with and support of City arterial roadway projects.

Activities include:

- **Removing dirt, debris, and grass from the concrete curb/sidewalk inlet**
- **Lowering turf around the inlet to the swale if turf build-up does not allow stormwater flow**
- **Keeping the grass or vegetation healthy**
- Cleaning fine silt and sand out of the swale every spring
- Core aerating the grass in the swale to break up any silt that washed in
- Not overwatering in the summer months
- Bark, shrubs, rock, soil, etc. can not be used for ground cover in a grassy bio-infiltration swale
- Protecting the swale from local construction materials and activities including paint, mortar, concrete, sediments, or other contaminants
- To promote survival of trees and to provide for proper maintenance of swales, trees should not be planted with the treatment zone (swale bottom) or near any drainage structures.
- Keeping the swale open (no paths, cars, garbage, etc.)

