Biofiltration

Did You Know?

Dense, thickly planted grasses filter out sediment and pollution from runoff of impervious surfaces, such as buildings and roads.

Bioswales And Rain Gardens

Bioswales and rain gardens improve water quality by absorbing and filtering runoff through selected plants and soils. They are strategically located to intercept storm water runoff, often found along edges of parking areas and streets, mitigating potential pollution from entering our rivers and streams. Fischer Park has rain gardens at each of its main parking lots. Several rain gardens throughout an area are better than one.

BIOSWALE AT LANDA PARK GOLF COURSE

IMAGE SOURCE: Baxter Spann

Collecting Storm Water

Bioswales along the parking areas at Fischer Park have been designed, installed, and lined with plants to absorb runoff water. During heavy rains, excess water is directed into the bioswales which filters slowly and absorbs into the ground. This also helps recharge groundwater, supplying rivers and streams with a steady, purified water source.

Filtering Storm Water

Below the surface of rain gardens, the selected plants and soils are hard at work cleaning the water. Once it is absorbed into the ground, sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous levels in the water are reduced by the combined actions of the plants, root systems and soils.

Special Plants

The plants selected for the rain garden and bioswale are able to withstand the extremes of both flooding and drought. Deep-rooted native plants are ideal for rain gardens and bioswales because they encourage infiltration, filter pollutants, and control erosion. Native plants are well adapted to climate and resist local pests and diseases. The selection of the right plants is crucial to the overall success of the garden.

HUMMINGBIRD MINT (*Agastache spp.*)

IMAGE SOURCE: Dick Culbert

OBEDIENT PLANT (*Physostegia virginiana*)

IMAGE SOURCE: Gene Wilburn

MAIDEN GRASS (*Miscanthus sienensis*)

IMAGE SOURCE: Matt Lavin

MUHLY GRASS (*Muhlenbergia spp.*)

IMAGE SOURCE: Ken Kennedy

MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS (*Nassella tenuissima*)

IMAGE SOURCE: Jenifer Jordan