

Vegetated Swales

Your Vegetated Swale BMPs Keep Our Waterways Clean

Stormwater Structural stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed on many properties in the City to help prevent pollutants such as trash, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment from making their way into storm drains and ultimately to our local creeks, lagoons, and the Pacific Ocean.

City records indicate that you have at least one vegetated swale BMP on your property.

City of Vista municipal code *requires owners of Stormwater Structural BMPs to perform routine inspections and maintenance actions to ensure that the systems continue to function effectively year-round.*

This factsheet provides guidance for understanding and maintaining your BMP(s).

Example of Vegetated Swale BMP

Water accumulates in vegetated areas after rainfall that are designed to remove pollutants.



If you have any questions, please contact the City of Vista

Stormwater & Water Quality Protection Program Hotline

P (760) 643-2804

E waterquality@cityofvista.com

www.cityofvista.com/stormwater



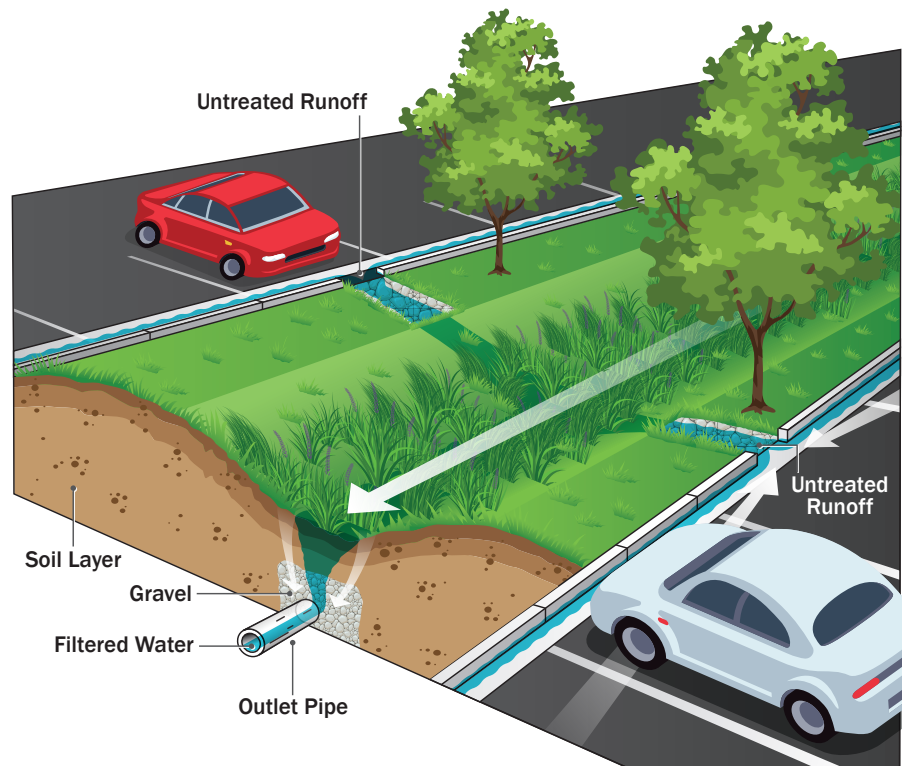
Maintenance Checklist

- ✓ It is recommended that there is at least 90% plant coverage for the most effective BMP
- ✓ Remove any accumulated litter or debris obstructing the flow to the vegetated swale
- ✓ Trim overgrown vegetation prior to the rainy season (October 1st – April 30th)
- ✓ Fill areas where water may pool for longer than 96 hours to reduce areas for mosquito breeding
- ✓ Remove sediment that is over 2 inches deep and covers vegetation
- ✓ Stabilize eroded areas on basin floors and slopes and provide adequate riprap (rocks that control and slow down flow) at the point where runoff enters the BMP
- ✓ Remove obstructions of any existing curb cuts (entry points to your basin)
- ✓ Refer to maintenance plans provided by your property developer to ensure any site-specific maintenance tasks are addressed or divert water flow any site-specific maintenance tasks are addressed

Properties with BMPs are subject to annual verification of maintenance or inspection by City of Vista staff. Failure to maintain functional BMPs at your property may initiate additional follow-up investigation and enforcement action.

How Do Vegetated Swale BMPs Work?

A vegetated swale is an open channel that collects and carries stormwater runoff while removing pollutants. The swale has grass or plants that can filter pollutants from the water. Vegetation also helps to slow the flow of water, allowing it to move downwards through the soil and remove pollutants before replenishing groundwater or being released into the storm drain system.



Find and Maintain Your Vegetated Swale BMP

To find your vegetated swale, look for a shallow channel where water flows when it rains. Depending on what type of swale you have, there may be a storm drain catch basin or pipe at either end of the swale.



Once You Have Found Your BMP

It is important to inspect and maintain it regularly. Keeping the vegetated swale in working condition helps keep our local waterways clean.