Bioretention

Help Protect Your Watershed

Bioretention areas are landscaping features adapted to treat stormwater runoff on the development site. These areas are usually applied to small sites (i.e. 5 acres or less), and are oftentimes located in parking lot islands or within small pockets in residential land uses. Surface runoff flows into shallow, landscaped depressions, which are designed toremove pollutants. Bioretention is most effective for smaller storm events, with rainfall of less than two inches.

5 - 10%

The size of the bioretention system, as compared to the impervious area draining to it.

$13,000 - $30,000

The estimated cost per acre for bioretention.

Case Study:

Prince George's County in Maryland was one of the first areas to develop and use bioretention techniques as an integrated management practice (IMP). The County continues to refine the bioretention IMP design and its effectiveness has been documented by studies that show significant pollutant loading reductions.

Advantages of Bioretention:

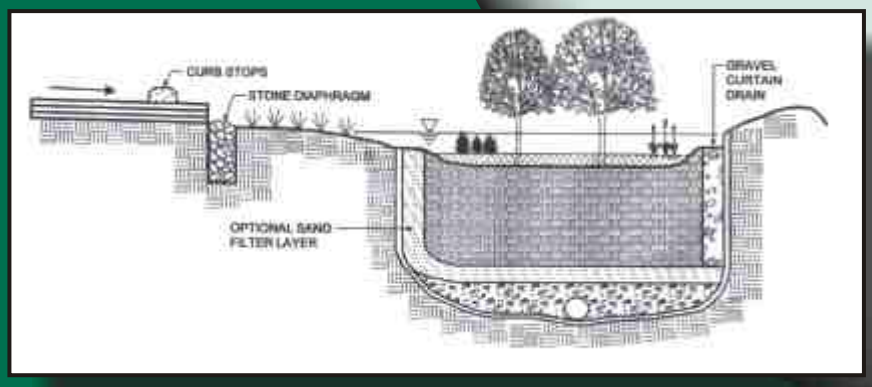
- Recharges groundwater
- Removes pollutants
- Enhances landscaping and can serve as habitat
- Minimal long-term maintenance

Bioretention is also widely applicable. It can be applied almost anywhere in the U.S., in any soil or topography. Some possible applications include:

- Parking lots
- Roundabouts
- Planter boxes attached to buildings
- Residential developments

Consider the following when selecting a bioretention site:

- The drainage area.
- The slopes both at the site location tributary and on the land draining to it - usually about a 5% slope.
- Soil and subsurface conditions.
- The depth of the seasonably high groundwater table.



If you would like more information, please check our web site at: www.mmsd.com or call 414-272-5100

MMSD
Preserving The Environment • Improving Water Quality

In cooperation with the 2020 Facilities Plan

Water Quality INITIATIVE