

HOMEOWNERS GUIDE TO GRASSY SWALES

Q. Who is responsible for swale maintenance?
A. In the City of Post Falls, property owners are responsible for the maintenance and care of swales.

RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE ACTIONS

MONTHLY

- Inspect your swale to make sure rainwater has drained and there is no erosion
- Remove sediment and debris from and around swale.
- Remove weeds and plants that do not belong.
- Check for obstructions or blockage of flow along inflow areas or pipes.



SEASONALLY

- Mow grass no shorter than 3 to 6 inches. Remove grass and compost all grass clippings.
- Adjust mower height to avoid scalping the edges of the side slopes.
- Remove and compost leaves in the fall and spring.

AS NEEDED

- Reseed bare areas to avoid erosion.
- Inspect and maintain or repair components.
- After rainfall, check the swale to ensure the water does not pond longer than 2 or 3 days after a rain storm.

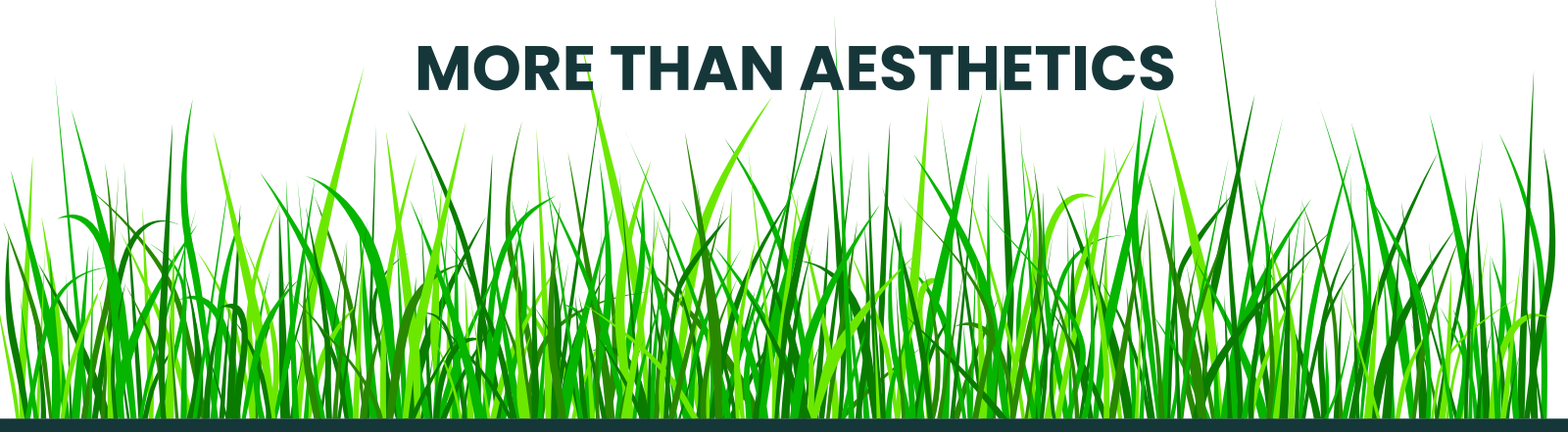


DO NOT:

- Overwater swales
- Replace the grass with rocks or remove or alter your grass swale.
- Dispose of chemicals in your swale.
- Use fertilizer or pesticides in your swale.

GRASSY SWALES

MORE THAN AESTHETICS



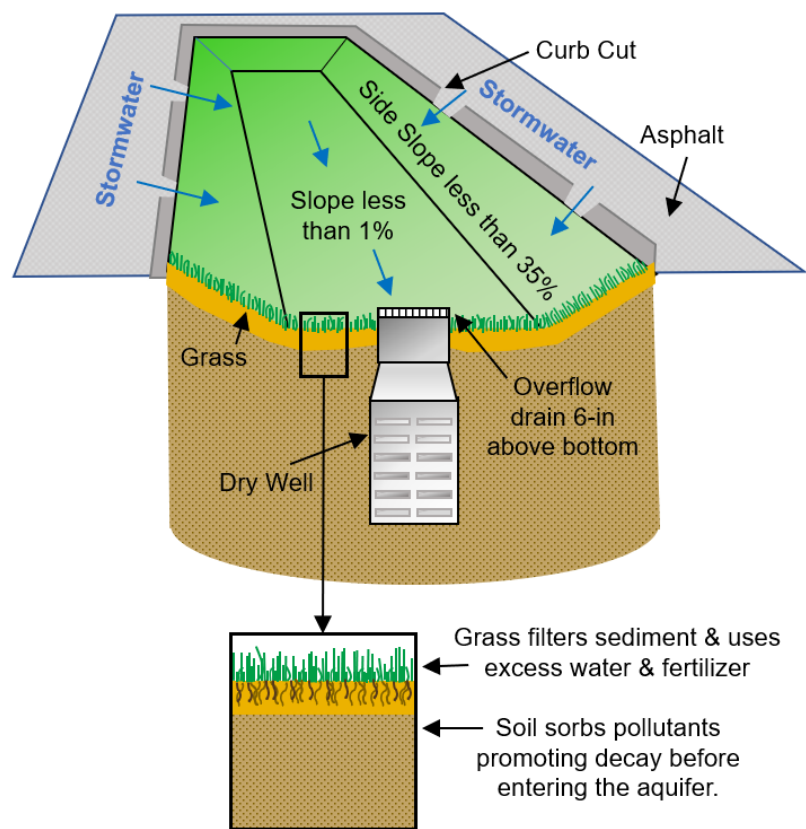
Grassy swales are used in our community to remove the pollutants from stormwater prior to infiltrating into our drinking water source, the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

Stormwater carries pollutants such as bacteria, heavy metals, oils, gas, grease, nitrogen, phosphorus, and pesticides. The grass acts as a filter pulling pollutants out as the stormwater passes through it.

The processes of pollutant reduction include:

- Using nutrients in the stormwater for growth,
- Trapping oils and grease at the surface where microbes can degrade them, and
- Slowing the flow of stormwater causing heavy metal laden sediments to drop out of solution and be rapped in the upper soil profile.

Therefore, proper maintenance and repair is more than just the aesthetics, it helps to keep our drinking water clean.



Grassy Swale Diagram

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