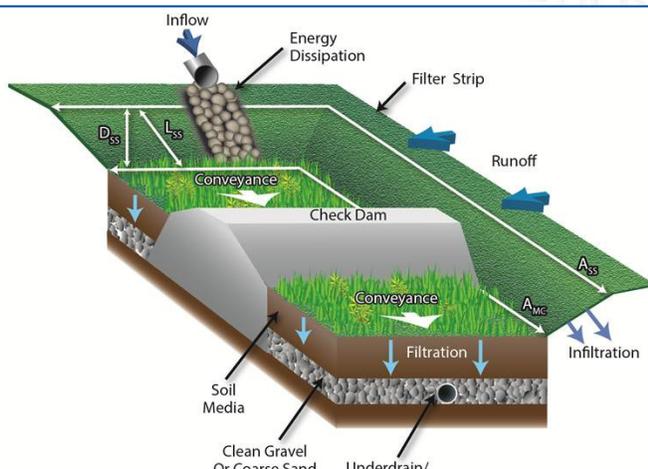
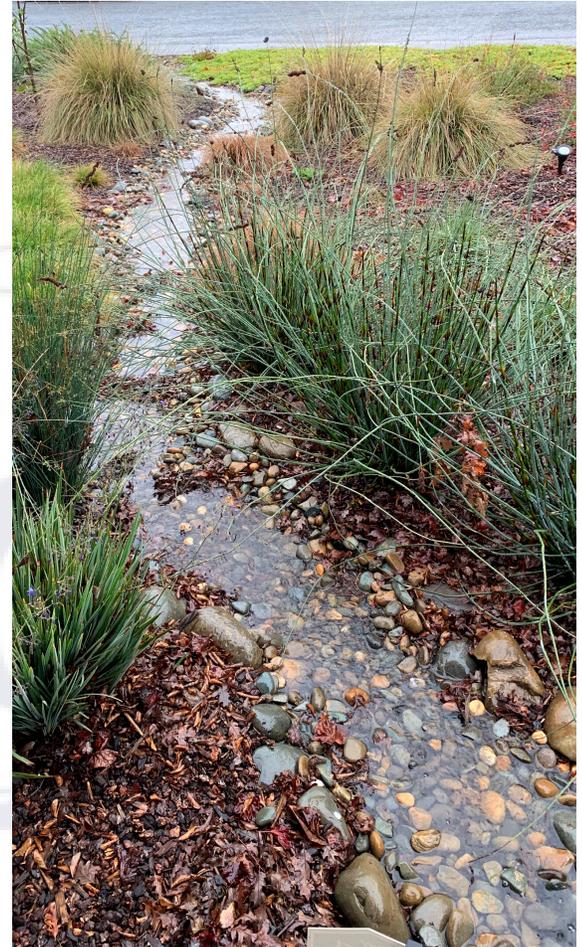


What are Grass Drainage Swales?

Grass Drainage Swales are less complicated and less invasive rain water collection systems. These are open channels in the landscape that collect rainwater runoff and slow the rate at which the water flows down hills.

This is accomplished in a variety of ways, but the general idea comprises of making an open channel with open filters covered in grass or stones to slow the rate of waterflow, thus letting more water infiltrate the ground at an appropriate rate. Optimal heights for the grass is 5-6" inches, which slows the water, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground.

Plants can be added to these areas to promote mini-ecosystems, helping the aesthetic and the environment. Due to the complexity of finding the right materials and grading of the landscape, it is highly recommended for professionals to complete these Sustainable Landscapes.



Courtesy of Minnesota Stormwater Manual

Benefits

Benefits of Grass Drainage Swales include, but are not limited to:

- Removing sediment pollutants
- Providing permanent wetland conditions for wild life
- Reducing runoff on roads and other landscapes

Grass Drainage Swale continued...



Maintenance

Maintenance Level: Intermediate

- Inspect swale after storms
- Remove sediment and debris along swale
- Check for clogging
- Replant grass as needed
- Apply correct fertilizer and lime as needed
- Cultivate the bottom of the swale yearly
- Make sure that the bottom of the swale is clear from debris and excess sediment
- Keep grass mowed to 5-6" inches in height for optimal functionality

How can SLO help?

SLO is a team of highly trained professionals with over 25 years of experience. SLO has made it their mission to help the community in creating Sustainable Landscapes to help preserve our land and the Chesapeake Bay.

SLO provides all of the resources you need to keep your Grass Drainage Swales operating in peak performance by:

- Evaluating systems after storms
- Fixing erosion issues
- Installing and maintaining swale
- Seasonal/storm maintenance
- Assisting with routine scheduled maintenance

