

Dispersion: Vegetated Filter Strips BMP

Reduce Runoff from Landscape and Hardscape Areas

Overview

Spreads runoff over a landscape area specifically to reduce pollution and runoff. Facilities that manage sheet flow are known as vegetated filter strips. Sheet flow or overland flow is unconfined runoff over a large area. These can be as attractive as any other landscape.

Siting

Dispersion relies on the soil's ability to absorb adequate volumes of runoff, which is related to the flow path or the distance runoff travels over a hard surface before entering the dispersion area. To function properly should be located as follows:

- Over soils with a minimum infiltration rate of 2 inches/hour
- In landscaped areas with restored or protected soils
- Seasonal groundwater is at least three feet from the surface
- 10 feet from a building with a basement



This example of a vegetated filter strip is located at the Oregon Zoo

Maintenance

- Mow and trim grasses to appropriate height for type and species
- Identify and correct sources of sediment and debris
- Inspect for and remove excess sediment that may affect vegetation growth.
- Replace vegetation as needed.
- Replace eroded areas where channels have formed by filling them with soil, lightly compacting them with tamping or boot compaction, and reestablish vegetation.

Cost

Vegetated Filter Strips are relatively low cost. Construction costs include: grading, seeding, sodding, and/or landscaping. This cost could be considered neutral if you were already planning to landscape regardless of use as runoff treatment.

Maintenance costs are generally \$100-1,400 per acre depending on labor costs, frequency, and preventative maintenance.