



STOVER SEED® Erosion Control News

Bioswales and Bioretention Ponds.

Bioswales are landscape elements designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. They consist of a swaled drainage course with gently sloped sides (less than six percent) and filled with vegetation or compost. The water's flow path, along with the wide and shallow ditch, are designed to maximize the time water



Recently constructed LA Zoo parking complex incorporating stormwater management through the use of bioswales.

spends in the swale, which aids the trapping of pollutants and silt. Depending upon the geometry of land available, a bioswale may have a meandering or almost straight channel alignment. Biological factors also contribute to the breakdown of certain pollutants.

A common application is around parking lots, where substantial automotive pollution is collected by the



Newly seeded native grasses surround bioretention pond that captures stormwater from Burbank parking lot.

paving and then flushed by rain. The bioswale, or other type of biofilter, wraps around the parking lot and treats the runoff before releasing it to the watershed or storm sewer.

Bioretention ponds are similar to Bioswales in that they are both biofilters except that water may flow directly from the surface into the pond or via a swale into a pond.

In California, native plant materials, because of their seasonal drought tolerance, are typically used for these applications. Native grass mixtures, composed of both annual and perennial grasses, are ideal for bioretention ponds. Stover Seed inventories a broad selection of native plant materials and can assist with site selection and make written recommendations.



STOVER SEED®

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