

# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE in New Jersey



## PRACTICES

### GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICE: GRASS SWALE

Grass swales are vegetated channels used to convey stormwater to a downstream structure, like a basin or a storm drain.

#### HOW IT WORKS:

Stormwater flows into a grass swale where it is conveyed more slowly to a downstream basin or storm drain. Grass within a grass swale is maintained between three and six inches; at this height, the grass slows the runoff allowing it to drop any debris or sediment. This results in cleaner water entering the basin or storm drain, which ultimately discharges into a stream.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

Grass swales are best suited to capture runoff from small areas. They are typically installed on the sides of roadways, in median strips and in parking lot islands. They are also used to drain the runoff from yards, which provides some pollutant treatment before it enters the storm sewer system. Grass swales are not intended to be used to infiltrate stormwater into the soil.

If you are interested in infiltration within a swale, a bioretention swale, which is a combination of a grass swale and a rain garden, can be constructed. Additional information for bioretention swales is available on the Rain Garden fact sheet and at [www.njstormwater.org/bmp\\_manual/NJ\\_SWBMP\\_9.1%20print.pdf](http://www.njstormwater.org/bmp_manual/NJ_SWBMP_9.1%20print.pdf).

Additional information regarding grass swale design is available at [www.njstormwater.org/pdf/Grass%20Swale%20after%20Public%20Comment%208\\_19\\_10.pdf](http://www.njstormwater.org/pdf/Grass%20Swale%20after%20Public%20Comment%208_19_10.pdf).

