



BIOSWALE PROGRAM

Helping Keep Our Streets Green

www.downers.us/stormwater



Village of Downers Grove

Public Works

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Is the ditch in front of your house wet or difficult to mow?

Would you like to attract birds and butterflies? If you answered **YES**, we have a remedy! The Village has a Bioswale Program.

What is the Bioswale Program?

The Bioswale Program is a public/private partnership developed to convert existing roadside drainage ditches into beautiful, beneficial landscaped areas, at no cost to the homeowner.

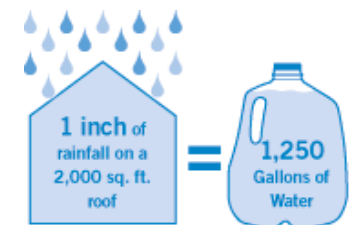
About Bioswales

Bioswales are ditches planted with deep rooted native plants that help absorb, collect and filter stormwater runoff. Runoff from developed areas often carries pollutants that contaminate our creeks and rivers. Native plants can filter out many of these pollutants.

Bioswales are effective in countering drainage issues such as standing water. They're aesthetically pleasing, slow the flow of stormwater runoff and help with water quality.

Program Benefits

- Bioswales reduce stormwater runoff by approximately 30% because native plants absorb more water than turf grass.
- They slowly replenish ground water levels in local aquifers.
- The plants filter out many pollutants, which improves the water quality of our creeks and streams.
- Native plants save money and time because they require less watering than traditional landscaping and do not require mowing.
- Native plants attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies.
- Reduce mosquitoes! Native plants absorb stagnant water, a prime ingredient for breeding mosquitoes. Many of the plants also attract dragonflies; a single dragonfly can eat hundreds of mosquitoes a day!



DID YOU KNOW?

Application Process

Limited funds are available for this program and will be applied on a first-come, first-served basis.

The bioswale may be established only on roadside draining ditches in the Village's public right-of-way.

Village staff will verify that the desired location is appropriate and will work with the homeowner to implement a plan. Upon approval, the Village will prepare the site and install plants.

The Village will provide routine maintenance of the site, such as mowing and weeding, for the first year. The homeowner will be responsible for watering the new plants. After the first year is established, the homeowner assumes all maintenance of the bioswale.

If drainage problems exist on your private property, consult with Village staff to determine solutions appropriate for the situation.

Village Responsibilities

- Coordinate the selection of native plants with homeowner.
- Modify the drainage ditch as needed to construct bioswale.
- Prepare the location/soil and install plants.
- Provide maintenance for the first year.
- Weed control/herbicide application for the first year, if needed.
- Provide guidance for long-term maintenance of the bioswale.

Homeowner Responsibilities

- Apply for the Village's *Bioswale Program*.
- Work with Village to select plants.
- Ensure the site is cared for and watered regularly.
- Assume responsibility for maintenance of the bioswale after the first year.
- Homeowners can apply for certification through the Conservation Foundation.
(Optional)

Sample Native Plants



Blue Flag Iris



Bottlebrush Sedge



Black Eyed Susan



Swamp Milkweed



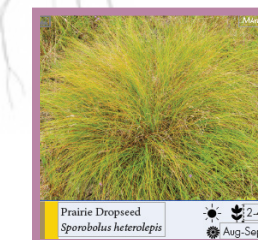
Crooked Stem Aster



Purple Coneflower



Ironweed



Prairie Dropseed