

Plant-based Research & Application in the Northwest



Eppler PSU, Portland Oregon

PROJECT Stormwater gardens at Eppler/Portland State University, Portland Oregon
START/ 1997
COMPLETION 1999
LOCATION
AGENCY City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
Portland State University

DESCRIPTION Landscaped swales capture stormwater from roof drains. Swales are planted with sedges, miscanthus, spirea, Oregon grape, and Japanese iris. Swale is 300' long, 6' wide and 3" deep with rock check dams every 15'. The swale gradient is 2% for the first 200', then increases to 4%. All flows that exceed filtration capacity of the swale, are discharged the into a catchbasin. Pea gravel mulch slows the flow and allows for increased infiltration and settling of sediments.

PERFORMANCE Most flows successfully infiltrated into the soil except in the steeper section where it entered the catch basin. Pea gravel is an effective mulch and has successfully protected the swale and assisted in filtering water flows. Construction quality is critical to the success of stormwater projects; some elements were incorrectly installed resulting in poor swale performance.

LINKS: Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services website
www.portlandonline.com/bes/

stormwater management