Vegetated Swales are shallow channels, planted densely with vegetation, designed to reduce the rate of stormwater and encourage infiltration. Additional stormwater management benefits of vegetated swales include improved water quality and volume reduction.

Vegetated swales can be incorporated into a variety of landscapes, including residential, commercial, industrial, and highways/roads. In areas with steep slopes, check dams can increase the effectiveness of vegetated swales by further slowing the rate of stormwater and therefore increasing opportunities for infiltration.

**Key Considerations for Vegetated Swales**
- Better alternative to conventional conveyance systems due to ability to remove some pollutants and reduce speed of stormwater
- Utilize minimum of 24” of permeable soil beneath plants
- 12” – 24” of base rock layer should be placed below soil layer
- Plant with native vegetation that is tolerant of wet and dry conditions
- Maintenance plan is essential for long term success
- Can be designed to aesthetically enhance surroundings
- Should discharge to additional stormwater BMP or traditional stormwater infrastructure

In areas with steep slopes, check dams can be included in the design of a vegetated swale to increase stormwater management performance. The check dams attenuate the water, slowing the peak rate and allowing more time for infiltration.