



PHENIX CITY

Alabama

# Phase II Storm Water Program

Spring 2026

## *Drainage Swales*

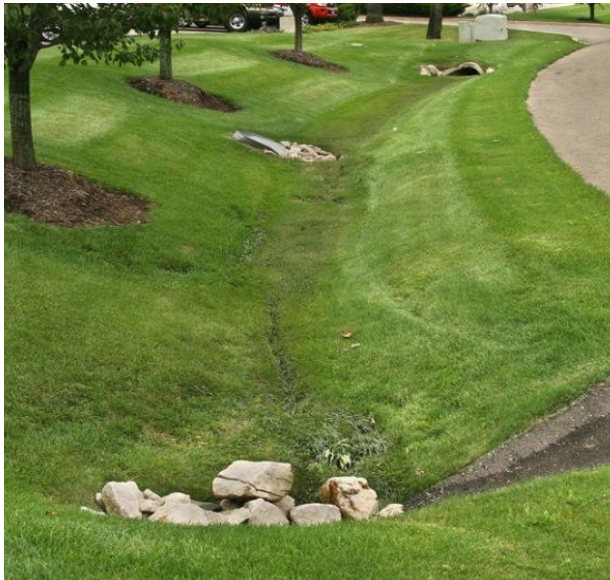
### **What is a Drainage Swale?**

A lot of people see swales as nothing more than a ditch on the sides of the road or in front of people's homes. Drainage swales are actually an important part of the stormwater system. Drainage swales allow for water to flow downhill smoothly. Drainage swales help prevent flooding by keeping water traveling downhill instead of pooling in one spot. Water is able to flow off of the road and allow gravity to carry the water away. The water is usually carried to a pipe or storm inlet that connects to other swales or pipes before discharging into a waterway.

### **Differences in Drainage Swales:**

Drainage swales come in a variety of materials. Drainage swales can be lined with grass or rock. These materials allow for water to travel through the swale without causing erosion. Many man-made swales require additional support through geotextile fabrics. Geotextile fabrics prevents erosion of the underlying soil while allowing water to freely pass through.

Drainage swales are an important part of our stormwater system. Keeping drainage swales clean of trash and debris helps ensure our waterways remain pollutant free.



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Grassed Drainage Swale



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Rock-lined Drainage Swale