

Reducing Run-Off

SPOKANE VALLEY MALL FOREST PROTECTION

CLEANER.
WATER.
FASTER.

THE FLORAL FILTER

The gradual slope of the swale exposes the most possible surface area of vegetation to stormwater. This ensures the maximum amount of pollutants are filtered.

A FLOOD OF POLLUTANTS

Parking lots collect oil, chemicals, and debris over time. When rains come, these pollutants are washed into the stormwater system to prevent flooding. The water in this system eventually reaches waterways like rivers and lakes. Swales like this one divert the direction of stormwater toward vegetation.

SPOKANE VALLEY MALL - URBAN FOREST PROTECTION

THE COST OF CONSUMING

In nature, soil and plants absorb water when it rains or floods. In urban areas, impermeable pavement and concrete keep water from being absorbed. The water doesn't stay put, though, and vast areas like roofs and parking lots condense what would be small sources of water into powerful streams that surge through stormwater sewers into rivers. The pollution and debris left on the parking lot ends up in our waterways.

PLANNING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SPACES

The Spokane Valley Mall parking lot can hold hundreds of cars, which litters the lot with oil and debris. Instead of letting the run-off pour into the stormwater system, this water is diverted to bioswales and a man-made urban forest. The vegetation soaks in water, filters oil and traps sediment with

their roots. The impact of the parking lot is greatly reduced by the creation of these beautiful spaces.

RECHARGING AN AQUIFER

Water is a renewable resource, which means it is easily replenished. Some water sources are replenished more easily than others, however. Below you lies the Spokane aquifer. All of Spokane's drinking water, and much of the agriculture in the area is sourced by pumping water from this aquifer. Aquifers can be refilled, but it takes plenty of rainfall and time. Swales, permeable pavement, and urban forests help keep our aquifer at sustainable levels. They allow rain and snowmelt to reach the aquifer by soaking through the ground. Asphalt doesn't let any water through, so most of the water that could be recharging the aquifer ends up in the Spokane River—and eventually the ocean.

RECHARGING THE AQUIFER

The vegetation in the swale removes most of the pollutants; the swale particles and microscopic biota also absorb pollutants resulting in natural stormwater treatment. The cleaned water can then infiltrate down into the aquifer.

Did You Know?

The forest and vegetation nearby were planted for the specific purpose of soaking up the pollutants that run-off of the Spokane Valley Mall parking lot.

You Can Help!

Be conscious of the condition of your own vehicle!

Leaking fluids are at a high risk of entering our environment.

Learn More!

