

Cumberland Bio-Swale



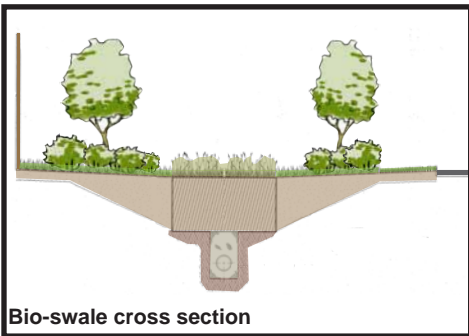
Water ponding in the Altalink corridor

What is a bio-swale?

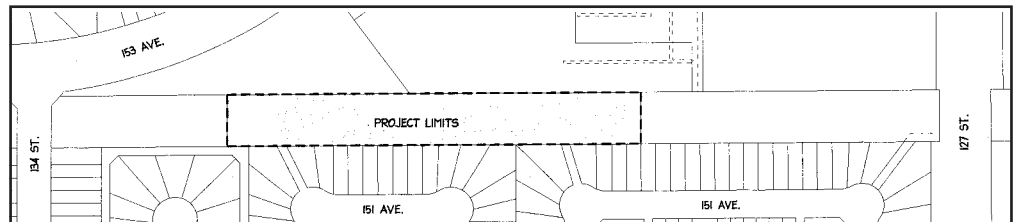
A bio-swale is a shallow depression created in the earth to accept and convey storm water runoff. A bio-swale uses natural means, including vegetation and soil, to treat storm water by filtering out contaminants being conveyed in the water.

Where is the bio-swale?

The bio-swale is located in the Altalink corridor between 127th Street & 134th Street



Bio-swale cross section



Why a bio-swale in Cumberland?

The Altalink corridor site was selected due to its accessibility and existing storm water drainage concerns. The Cumberland bio-swale is a joint project between the City of Edmonton Drainage Services department, Parks Design and Construction and River Valley Forestry and Environmental Services.



A bio-swale in action

What type of maintenance will the bio-swale receive?

Bio-swales are relatively low maintenance. The area will be naturalized with grasses and shrubs to aid in the absorption of water and habitat creation. Grass mowing will occur in a 2m wide strip along the east to west running asphalt walkway.

Will the bio-swale reduce the number of mosquitos that develop in the corridor?

Yes. Mosquito larvae typically develop in aquatic habitats that are temporary in duration, and where water levels fluctuate greatly between dry and wet states (see first photo). The bio-swale habitat is more stable than the ponds that form in the corridor now, and should reduce the numbers of mosquitoes that develop in this region.



Creating habitat

Is there anything I can do to get involved?

For sure! The City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Naturalization Group will be looking for volunteers to help plant the bio-swale. Please contact Community Recreation Coordinator Laurel Koslowski at 780-944-5531 for more information.