

Vegetated swales & buffer strips

Swales



Source: www.lidsearthstewardship.org

- Remove sediments
- Promote infiltration
- Delay runoff peak flow

Source: Melbourne Water



Source: Bruce Bennett, For the Chronicle



Source: www.tlake.com

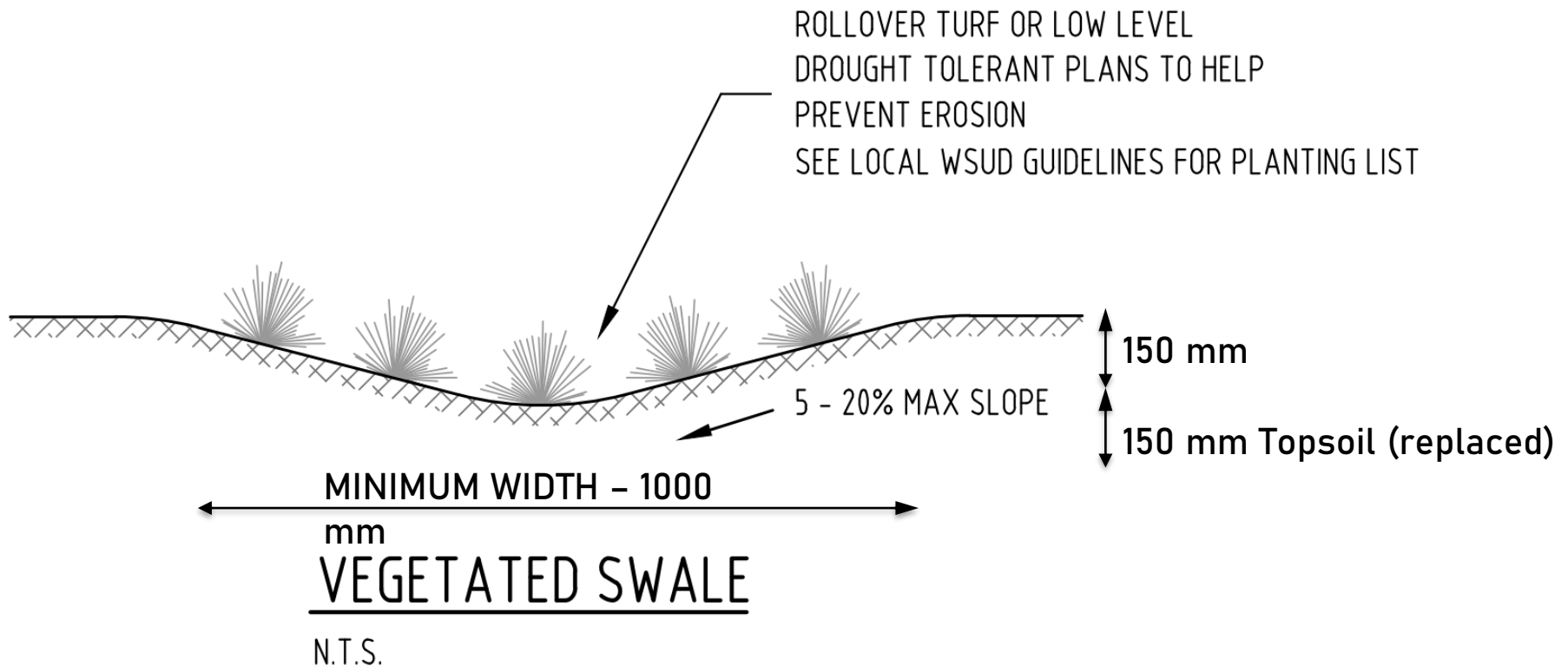


Source: Aaron Volkening (www.flickr.com)



Source: oars3rivers.org

Swale



Material list – 2 m² swale

QUANTITY	MATERIAL
0.3m ³	Topsoil
12	Plants (150mm pots)
0.05m ³	20mm Fine Crushed Rock
1m ²	Large flat rocks (100-200mm diameter)
0.1m ³	Gravel mulch
1m ²	PVC liner (under rockwork near downpipe) or geotextile (optional)
10	100 – 300mm diameter rocks (optional)
1	90mm diameter uPVC 90 degree bend or 2x 45 degree bends
1	90mm diameter uPVC grated end cap
1 l/m	90mm diameter uPVC pipe*

l/m = lineal metres m² = square metres m³ = cubic metres mm = millimetres

* Length subject to change based on location of existing stormwater pipe.

Approx. cost \$200 - \$300 (plus the cost of a plumber)

Maintenance

- Once established doesn't need to be watered or fertilised
- Some weeding needed until plants have matured
- Evenly distribute water flow into the swale to limit erosion from heavy rainfall
 - strategically placed rocks may help with
 - flow spreader can be attached to the end of the downpipe