

Issue:	Imperviousness & Runoff	
Action Tool Title:	Grassed waterways	
Description of the tool:	Grassed waterways force stormwater runoff to flow down the center of an established grass strip that can carry very large quantities of storm water across a site without erosion. They can also significantly reduce the quantities of sediment and agricultural chemicals entering surface water.	
How Well Does It Work?		
How valuable is this tool? How important is its contribution to achieving North Texas' vision for the future?		
Urban runoff is a challenge to the region especially in first tier cities that are completely built up with very little undeveloped/vacant land precipitating huge volumes of runoff when it rains. This tool will seek to address such challenges.		
What are the costs and who will they affect?	What are the benefits and who will they help?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In monetary terms, the cost of establishing grassed waterways will vary depending on the equipment and labor costs, grading, seed and fertilizer selected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would moderate water flow and reduce runoff, therefore, mitigate soil erosion and siltation that can be major problems in the water systems and bodies, even when flooding is not. Other benefits would be increased groundwater recharge, thus raising the water table and helping to mitigate the effects of droughts. This would benefit farmers and others who depend on water wells in the region. 	
What are the biggest stumbling blocks?	How can they be addressed?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of knowledge on the part of the public on the benefits of the tool. 	Public education.	
Who Would be Responsible?		
Primary (lead) responsibility	Cities and property owners, private developers.	
Secondary responsibility	N/A	
Need for coordination	N/A	
How Should it be Funded?		
Primary (lead) responsibility	Property owners.	
Secondary responsibility		
How Does It Connect?		
What other VNT issues are helped by this tool?	This best management practice can reduce sedimentation of nearby water bodies and pollutants in runoff. This will impact water quality and availability in the long term. The waterways can also provide a wildlife habitat thus adding to its diversity.	
How Should It Be Implemented?		
What will be done?	When will it happen?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First step for action: Cities can implement it in areas that generate large volumes of runoff when they wish. Second, educating large property owners and developers of the importance of the tool as a best practice. 	N.A	
What Examples Can We Follow?		
North Texas Case Studies Other Texas Case Studies Other U.S. Case Studies Supporting Research Related Information	http://www.sera17.ext.vt.edu/Documents/BMP_Grassed_Waterways.pdf Franti, T.G. May 1997. Vegetative Filter Strips for Agriculture. Nebraska Cooperative Extension NF 97-352.	
Acknowledgements	Vision North Texas Water/Natural Assets Team	