

Roadsides for Wildlife and Storm Water Retention: Equipment Requirements to Deliver Both Programs that Avoid Detours

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Adding plans for designing and implementing wildlife corridors to construction documents requires an interested public and support of conservation groups. Good construction details and specifications determine the initial outcome, but do not predict success. By using methods developed for the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) natural reconstruction along roadways is not only possible, but becomes the method of business (Natural Site Design) as it addresses water quality. These methods include developing strong narratives, assigning responsibility, providing details for resource protection, managing soil health, applying rapid soil stabilization techniques, and selecting final bioswale/slope locations. This presentation will illustrate a roadside habitat for wildlife conversion along Interstate 90 and complex sloped projects for natural habitat reconstruction. It will include Minnesota seed mixtures for different roadway zones, soil preparation methods, seeding processes, mulch types, and monitoring. The most difficult remaining task is the initial 2-year maintenance period after installation of spot-weed control, prescribed burning across roadways, and cooperative weather.