



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION



What are swales?

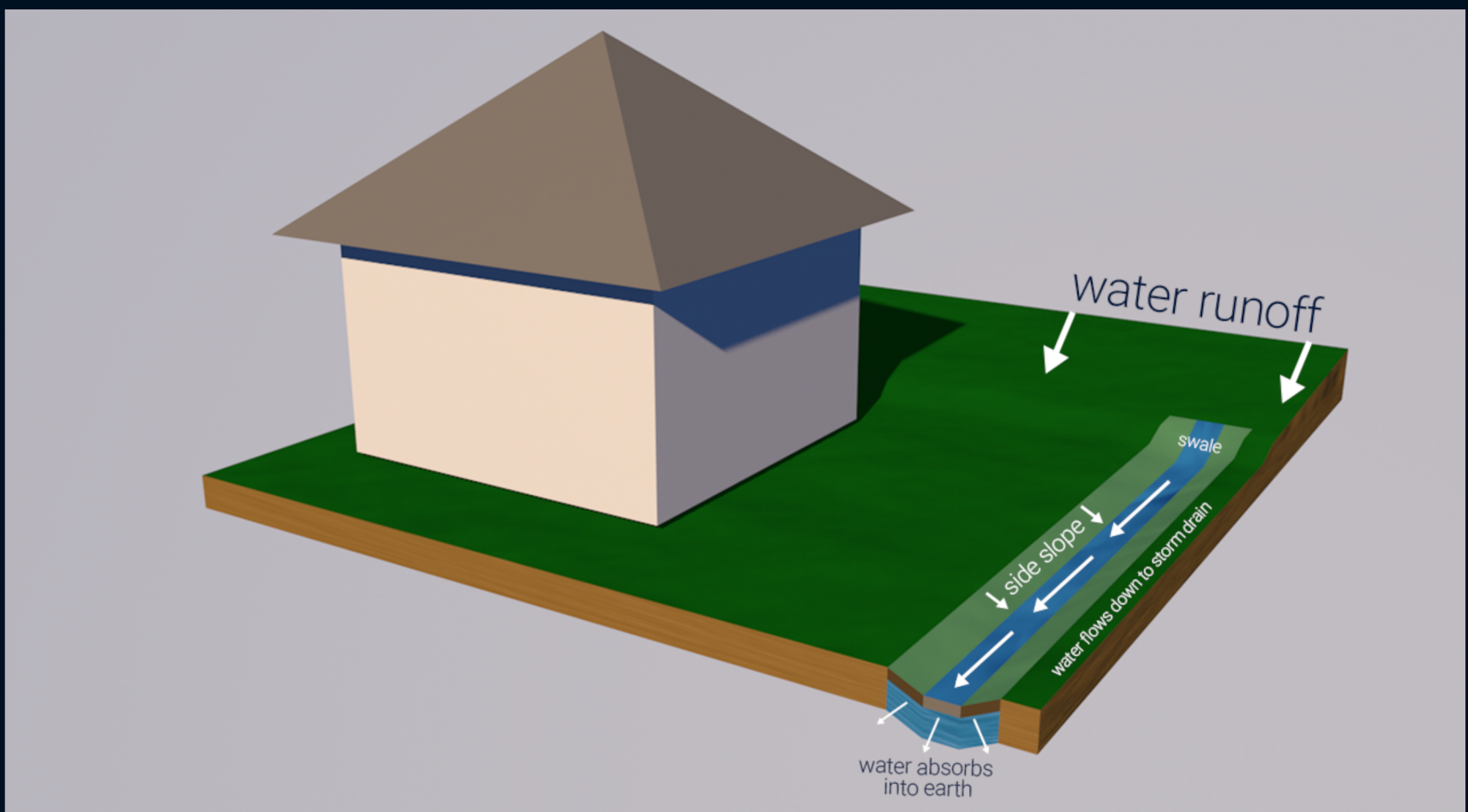
Swales are broad ditches with gentle side slopes that blend in with surrounding landscape design. These drains are used to [control the flow of rainwater and direct it away from your home](#) and toward a final drainage point, such as a storm drain.

What are the benefits of swales?

Swales are one of the most common stormwater practices used to slow, spread, and sink rainwater. During heavy rainfall, swales can help protect your home by redirecting rainwater away from your home and preventing storm drains from being overwhelmed by a sudden influx of rainwater.

Top 5 benefits of swales

1. Directing water away from homes
2. Encouraging filtration
3. Preventing clogging from water and sediment
4. Promoting infiltration and irrigation
5. Reducing puddling



Are swales required by the City of Houston?

The City of Houston requires a drainage plan as a part of the residential construction permit process demonstrate projects comply with all city regulations and are unlikely to adversely impact the floodplain and surrounding properties, such as neighboring homes. If the City of Houston Public Works Department deems storm drainage features as necessary, [the Homeowner Assistance Program](#) builders must include swales in the drainage plan.