

ALBERTSON PARKWAY'S BIORETENTION SYSTEM: PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

What is a Bioretention System? How Does It Work?

Albertson Parkway's trail and landscaping have been designed to help minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff by incorporating a bioretention system. Runoff from the impervious paved trail drains into a specially-designed system of bioretention areas located in the landscaping along the trail. Think of a "bioretention area" as a filter made up of plants, soil, and organic matter.

Runoff filters through the bioretention area before it soaks into the ground, replenishing our groundwater supply. As runoff infiltrates, pollutants are naturally removed through physical, biological and chemical processes.

In the past, runoff was routed directly to the roadways' stormwater system, flowing into area creeks and rivers, delivering contaminants into the Bay via paved gutters and storm drains.

Because the bioretention system is a vital component of the Albertson Parkway stormwater drainage system, care must be taken not to walk on or disturb the vegetation or soil within it.

For more information on stormwater pollution prevention, please contact the City of San José or visit the City's homepage.



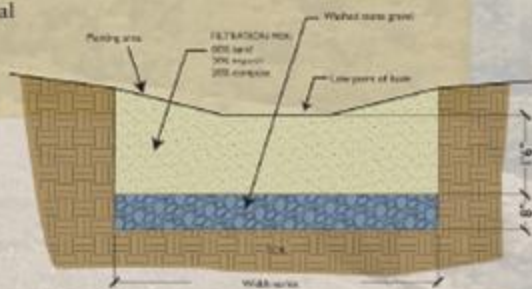
Blue-eyed grass plants found in Albertson Parkway's bioretention basins.



ALBERTSON PARKWAY'S LOCATION WITHIN SAN JOSÉ AND THE GUADALUPE RIVER WATERSHED



Blue fescue ornamental plants found in bioretention basins.

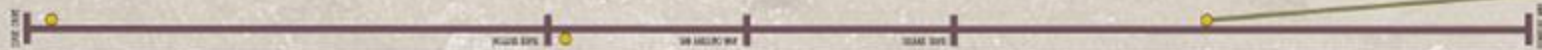


ABOVE: CROSS-SECTION OF A BIORETENTION BASIN AT ALBERTSON PARKWAY

Did You Know...

- Albertson Parkway is within the Guadalupe River Watershed. A watershed is a region of land whose water drains into a specified body of water.
- In San José, most stormwater runoff flows directly from storm drains to local creeks and rivers, which lead to the San Francisco Bay. This occurs without any type of treatment and impacts the health of our environment. Stormwater runoff in Albertson Parkway ends up in the groundwater, not the Bay.
- Stormwater runoff is the #1 source of pollution in our waterways.
- Impervious surfaces (streets, driveways, rooftops and trails) serve as collection and concentration points for pollutants such as sediment, oil, grease, hydrocarbons and heavy metals which ultimately find their way into the Bay.
- Preservation of natural areas and use of landscape features are great ways to protect our water resources.
- Since 2005, the City of San José and Bay Area cities must comply with state regulatory requirements to contain and filter stormwater on-site.

YOU ARE HERE



ALBERTSON PARKWAY