



Birnamwood Drive Roadway Project

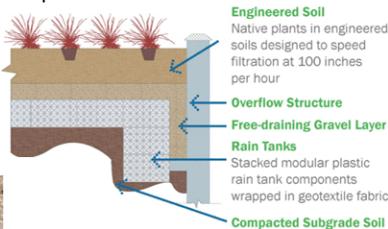
Harris County, Texas



Photos courtesy of Harris County, Texas



An engineered system scrubs stormwater of impurities.



Harris County recently completed construction on the first roadway project in Texas to utilize Low Impact Development techniques for stormwater management. The roadway’s drainage system combines natural and engineered components to eliminate off-site stormwater detention. The Birnamwood green roadway design features a 32-foot depressed median in the middle of the four-lane concrete boulevard that will accommodate stormwater runoff during rainfall.



A median bioswale, the natural component, runs between the two sets of roadway lanes, providing on-site detention during major rain events, thereby eliminating the need to build off-site detention facilities. The bioswale’s hardy native grasses filter rainfall, allowing it to soak into the soil, recharging the groundwater and also reducing maintenance.

The engineered component is a layered system that filters pollutants such as auto fluids that stormwater runoff picks up from roads, scrubbing the water of impurities before rain tanks release the water into the bayous. The overall effect is cleaner downstream water quality and a community amenity in the planted bioswale.

The Birnamwood roadway project will serve as a model for future green roadway projects.

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See the entire project poster. [Click here.](#)



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