Not all grasses are the same

Big blue-stem (Panicum virgatum)

Switch grass

Little blue-stem (Schizachyrium scoparium)

The long root systems of the native grasses planted here tolerate tough conditions and anchor the soil better than lawn grasses.

The fruits of cultivated persimmon trees can often be found in food stores.

Birds can eat winterberry holly, but the plant and berries are poisonous to people.

The sweetbay magnolia produces showy fragrant flowers in the spring and early summer.

Red-winged blackbirds are common in wetland areas.

The Bioswale Garden in Tyson Park

Runoff is captured within the basin of the bioswale, where the roots of the plants and soil microbes can process many of the pollutants.

Rainwater is released slowly back into the water table.

The native plants used in this garden help preserve the natural heritage of the area, and they are well adapted to the variety of growing conditions around bodies of water or in wet areas. More importantly, native plants can also provide food and shelter for a wider range of wildlife than many imported plants.

Look for some of the typical species shown below.

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