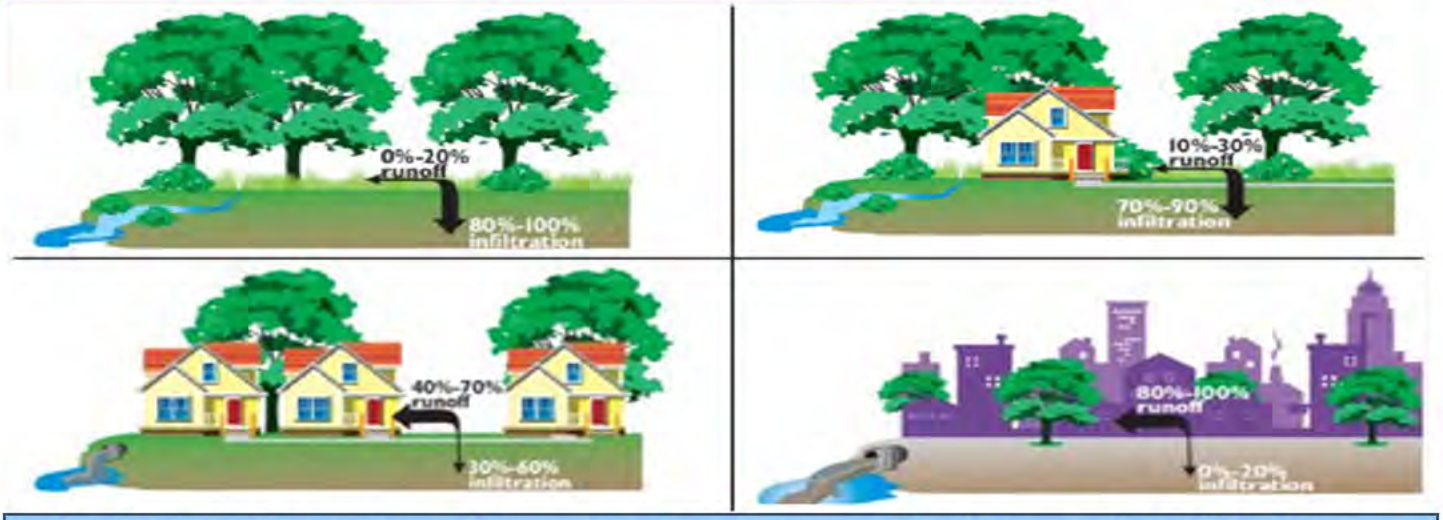
What Happens to Storm Water Run Off?



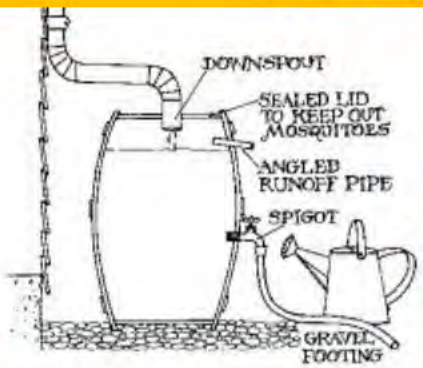
Hard surfaces like roof tops, driveways and streets prevent rain from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, this water will run off the land and go down the storm drain, and often times, down to the stream-untreated.

What's the Problem?

- This water can pick up and float pollutants such as trash, gas, oil and salt from pavements, and fertilizer from lawns down to the river.
- Heavy rains can cause storm water to flood our homes and businesses. It can also create issues like sewage overflows.
- When added to our water ways, these pollutants take a heavy toll by harming the aquatic life and polluting our drinking water supply.

All of this adds up to polluted local water resources!

You Can Help Reduce Storm Water Run Off!



Keep the water on your property and prevent as much as you can from taking pollutants to the storm drain.

- **Install a rain barrel** and use the water you catch for your yard or garden—saving you money!
- **Disconnect your downspouts** from existing standpipes and let the rain flow downhill over landscaped areas or your lawn.

For More Information

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit americanrivers.org.

Rain Gardens & Storm Water Runoff

Hey everyone, Betty here...

Did you know that you can help keep our local water clean?

Like to garden? How about planting a beautiful garden that also helps keep our local water clean! Putting a rain garden in the low area of your yard will collect the run off from your property and prevent it from going into the storm drain.

Rain gardens mimic the absorption and pollutant removal activities of natural habitats such as a meadow or a woodland. They can absorb sometimes as much as 30% - 40% more run off than a standard lawn.

Hard surfaces like rooftops, driveways and streets prevent rain from naturally soaking into the ground, creating runoff. Instead, this water can pick up and float pollutants such as trash, gas, oil and salt from pavements and fertilizer from lawns down to the stream-untreated.

Benefits of Having a Rain Garden

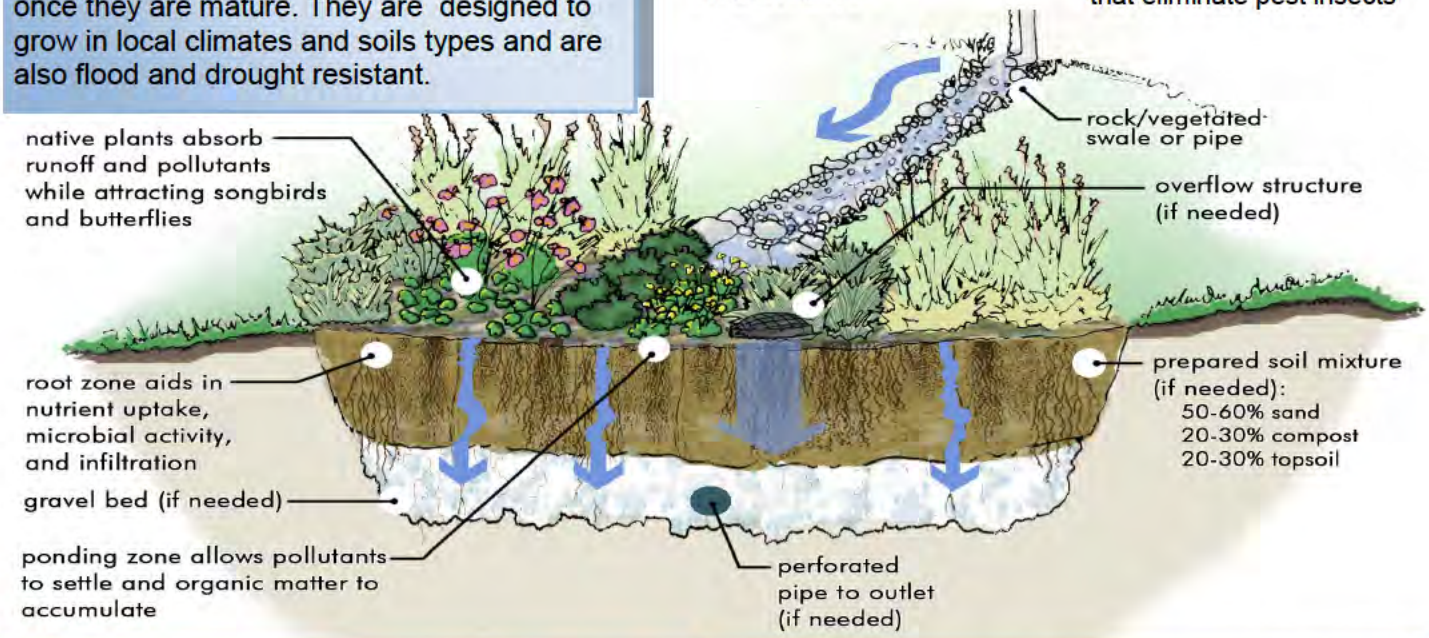
The quantity of runoff is also a problem. Keeping rainwater on your property helps reduce the amount of water that reaches the stream.

Rain gardens hold the water for a short time and then slowly release it into the soil. This process filters the runoff, helps recharge our ground water and decreases storm water's power to erode stream banks by retaining the runoff on your property.

Native Ohio plants do very well in rain gardens once they are mature. They are designed to grow in local climates and soils types and are also flood and drought resistant.

A Rain Garden Can

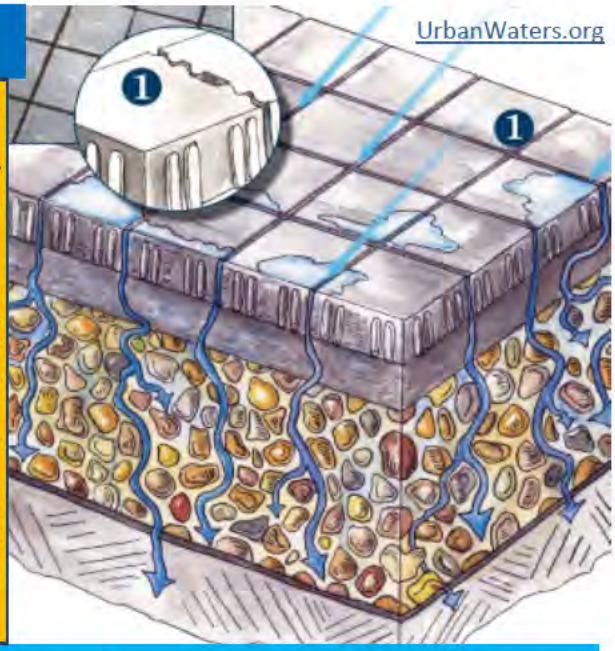
- Provide localized flood control
- Create habitat and food for wild birds & butterflies
- Enhance sidewalk appeal
- Increase garden enjoyment
- Reduce garden maintenance
- Filter runoff pollution
- Conserve water
- Improve water quality
- Protect rivers and streams
- Remove standing water in your yard
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Increase beneficial insects that eliminate pest insects



For More Information

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit www.thecleanwaterbusiness.com

Your Pavement & Storm Water Runoff



Conventional pavements create hard, impervious surfaces that prevent rain from naturally soaking into the ground, creating storm water runoff. This water can *pick up and float pollutants* such as trash, gas, oil, salt and fertilizer from streets, sidewalks and lawns down to the stream-untreated.

Pervious (or porous) pavements are designed to *allow the rain to drain* through and *filter* down into the layers beneath, instead of forcing the rain to travel to the storm drain, picking up pollutants as it makes its way back to the water table.

Too much storm water can cause problems such as flooding and ice.

Benefits of Pervious Pavements (Concrete or Pavers)

Pervious (or porous) concrete and pavers allows the home owner to…

- ⇒ Reduce their need for using salt and shoveling in the winter—water drains way and doesn't collect as much snow or ice
- ⇒ Help keep the local water clean by filtering the rain that is collected on your property and preventing the runoff from becoming polluted
- ⇒ Reduce the amount of water that travels to the stream, decreasing local streambank erosion
- ⇒ Utilize the rain to water the surrounding grass and underlying tree roots which saves money
- ⇒ Reduce problem flooding areas for driveways and sidewalks.
- ⇒ Prevent puddles around swimming pool areas creating a safer place to walk
- ⇒ Help the rain water to return back to the water table (recharging local groundwater resources) instead of going down the street
- ⇒ Help reduce standing water in your yard, driveway or sidewalk after a heavy rain
- ⇒ Help reduce mosquito breeding by preventing long-term puddles
- ⇒ Create beautiful and decorative pavement designs to enhance the look of their property

For More Information

visit www.thecleanwaterbusiness.com

Please consult a professional for appropriate designs, materials, and zoning codes that suite your property.