

Hold the Stormwater, Please!

tips for stormwater management on your property



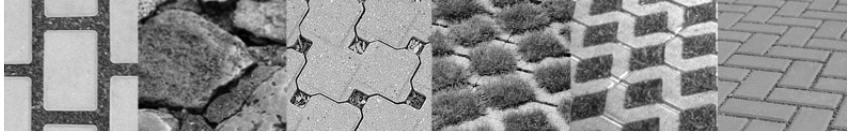
DID YOU KNOW:

- We depend on rainfall soaking into the ground to recharge our groundwater levels.
- Increased number of impervious (non-porous) surfaces, such as asphalt and rooftops, result in fewer opportunities for rainfall to soak into the ground causing flooding and increased pollution of our streams.
- Low groundwater levels result in critically low or even dry creek beds and diminished drinking water supply during periods of reduced rainfall.

Here are some ways you can help in your own backyard:

1 Substitute porous surfaces for impervious ones.

Patios, walkways, driveways, and parking areas can be constructed with porous materials that reduce stormwater runoff. One option is special blocks or pavers with voids that can be filled with gravel or planted with grass that allow stormwater to soak into the soil.



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2 Direct stormwater to areas where it can seep into the ground.

Do any of your downspouts direct rooftop runoff down the driveway into the street or directly into a stream? Redirect those downspouts away from the foundation of your home to a grassy area, seepage pit, mulched bed, or rain garden. Use a PVC extension or pipe.



3 Hold stormwater for use or release later.

Use a rain barrel to retain stormwater coming off rooftops for reuse in gardens or to release at a later time. For best results, direct overflow from your rain barrel to a more porous area such as a mulched bed or a rain garden.



4 Plant more trees, shrubs, and mulched beds.

Trees, shrubs, and mulched beds with flowers will intercept and infiltrate rainwater better than mowed lawns. Consider planting one or more large canopy trees, such as maples and oaks. Each large tree will intercept over 1,000 gallons of rainwater each year.