Rain Gardens: A Natural Solution

Stormwater Pollution

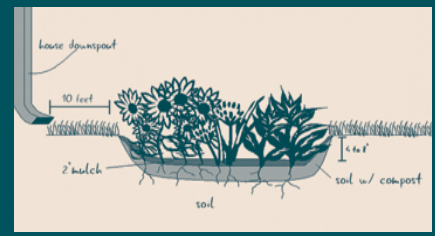
The health of our streams and lakes is impacted daily by harmful pollutants generated by human activity. These pollutants are derived from automobile wastes, road salts and sands, and fertilizers and pesticides deposited on our roadways, driveways, and parking lots. During rain events this accumulated pollution washes down our roads, into storm drains, and eventually flows to our streams and lakes.

As impervious surfaces increase, less rain water is absorbed by the soil and cleaned through the natural processes of plants and microbes. Instead, this water flows directly to our waterways via roadways, picking up toxic pollutants along the way.

Flash slugs of water to a stream during a rain storm also erode the stream channel, destroying aquatic habitat including fish and invertebrates. A large quantity of stormwater entering a stream or lake can quickly become a long-term impairment to the waterway.

Rain Gardens

A natural solution to stormwater run-off is to plant a rain garden. Rain gardens are designed to capture stormwater runoff, remove pollutants, and restore groundwater. Rain gardens use the biochemical activity in mulch and soil to remove toxins from polluted water, preventing them from entering streams.



Rain water flows from a downspout directly into a rain garden, thereby avoiding driveways and roadways altogether.

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