



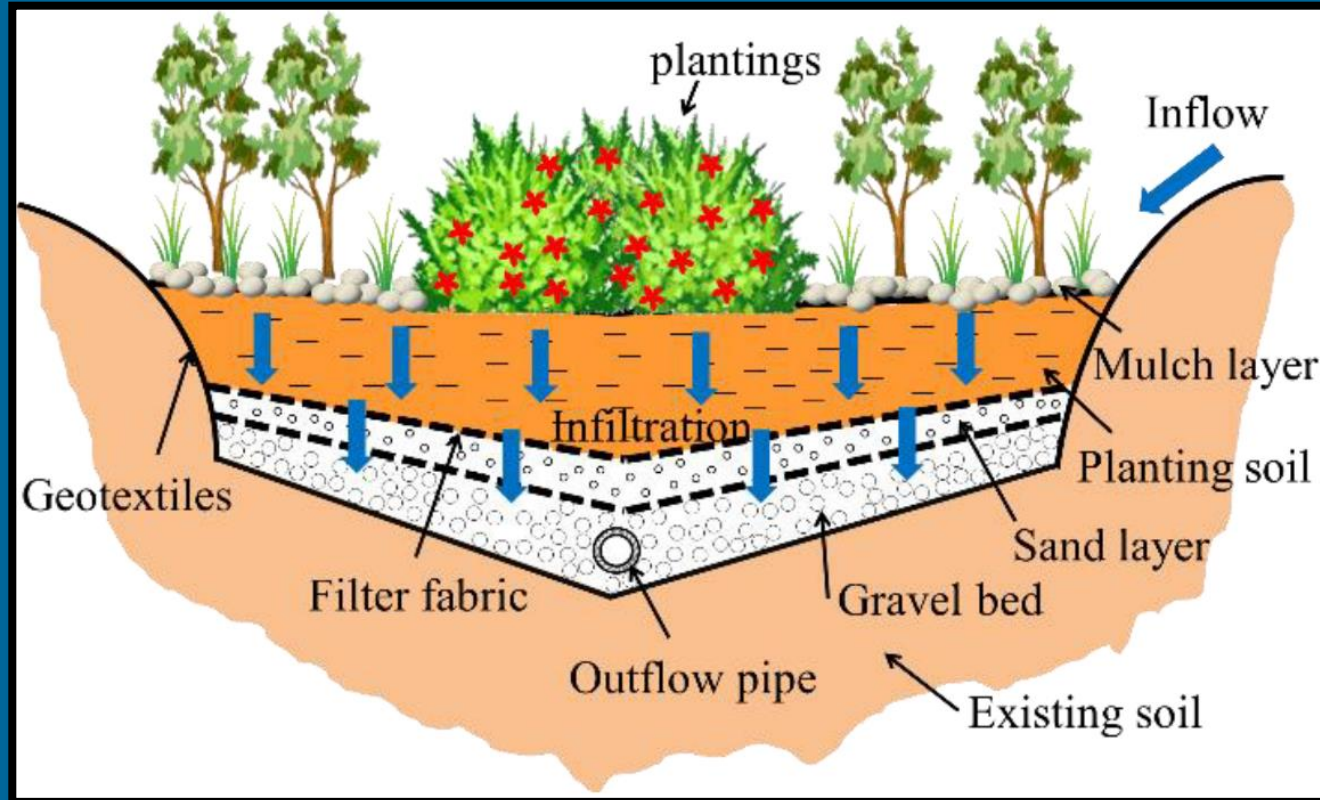
Rain Gardens 101

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Design



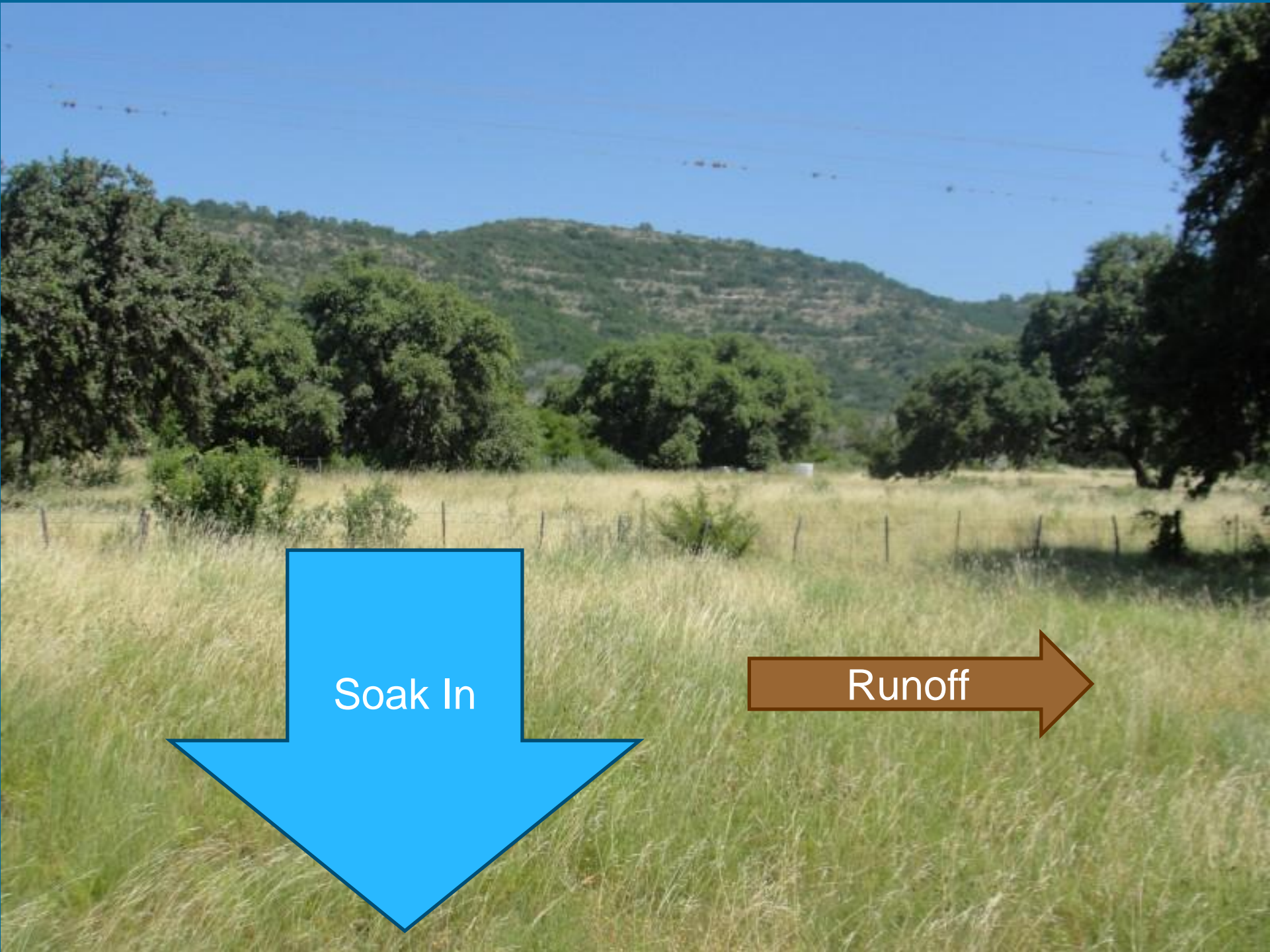
Benefits





Soak In

Runoff



Soak In

Runoff

Major Urban Pollutants



SEDIMENT



FECAL BACTERIA



NUTRIENTS



HAZARDOUS/TOXIC CHEMICALS

Benefits





Rain Gardens

Controlling Stormwater Runoff

Quick Facts:

Rain gardens are located and designed to intercept the water running off yards, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots before it enters the street and storm sewer. Plants in a rain garden are attractive because they can give color to the landscape at all times of the year. Rain gardens can be designed for an individual yard or a neighborhood.

Did You Know?

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution and flooding in urban areas because of the increase of impervious cover replacing the natural environment. Managing rain where it falls helps prevent pollution laden runoff from entering our river and creeks. Stormwater management strategies like rain gardens help filter the pollutants and recharge groundwater – a beneficial strategy for us and our environment.



Visit www.ugra.org
or scan for more info.

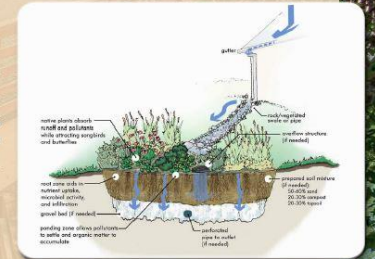


What are Rain Gardens?

A rain garden is a planted shallow depression that collects rainwater runoff from roofs, parking lots, and other surfaces. While a rain garden can blend into the landscape and serve as a garden area, its main function is to retain and treat collected stormwater. Stormwater runoff increases urban flooding, erodes the banks of rivers and streams, and carries pollutants into waterways. A rain garden can turn stormwater problems into water supply assets by slowing runoff and allowing it to soak into the ground.

How They Work

Rain gardens are not ponds. Existing soil is replaced with layers of high-infiltration soils, gravel, and mulch. They are usually planted with native or adapted vegetation that tolerates both waterlogging and drought. Rain gardens fill up with runoff during rain events and slowly drain afterward. As the runoff drains from the rain garden, the plants and soil trap pollutants. Rain gardens work best when they are maintained regularly by removing weeds, aerating soil, and removing any clay layers.



Stormwater

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants, and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to our river and streams. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.



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