

What is a rain garden?

Green Rainwater Infrastructure

How does a rain garden work?

Rain gardens are inspired by nature and designed to mimic natural water cycles and ecosystem functions.

- 1** Beavers, nature's engineers, have taught us that dams are a good way to slow down the flow of water. Rain gardens use human made **check dams** to slow the flow of rainwater and give it time to clean, cool and absorb.
- 2** Inspired by the headwaters of a stream, **inlets** are areas where rainwater enters into the rain gardens.
- 3** Layers of **gravel and rock** underground provide additional storage for rainwater as it slowly re-joins the groundwater system. Providing underground storage helps to prevent flooding and pooling of water above ground.
- 4** **Soils** are natural water filters, removing rainwater pollutants and helping to store it in the ground. Soils also store carbon and are home to billions of organisms that support biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- 5** **Plants** help to collect and filter pollutants found in rainwater. They also provide added benefits of urban cooling, carbon sequestration, and food and habitat for wildlife.
- 6** **Trees** act as natural air conditioning by evaporating rainwater off their leaves to create cooler air temperatures.

