

# Green Infrastructure: How We Can Protect Our Communities and Our Waters

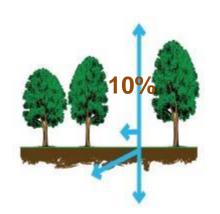
Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

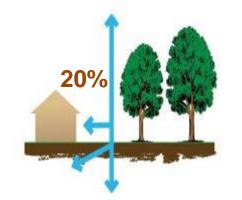
obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu www.water.rutgers.edu

October 20, 2016
Rally for the Navesink River

## The Impact of Development on Stormwater Runoff







More impervious surfaces





More stormwater runoff







#### **Disconnect It!**







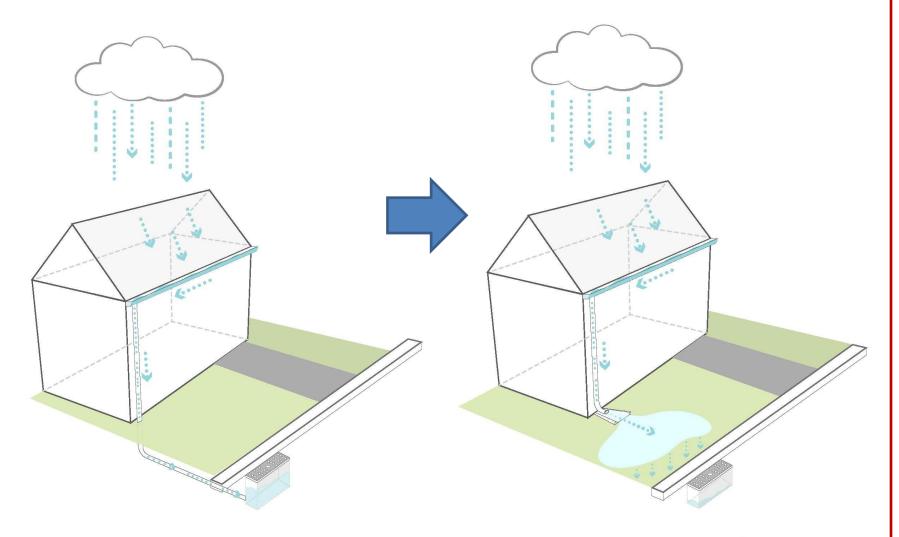
# ACTIONS AND PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Managing Impervious Surfaces with Green Infrastructure





## **Simple Disconnection**





### Simple Disconnection

- Simply divert stormwater runoff to pervious area so it infiltrates
- Usually rooftop runoff is diverted to a lawn area

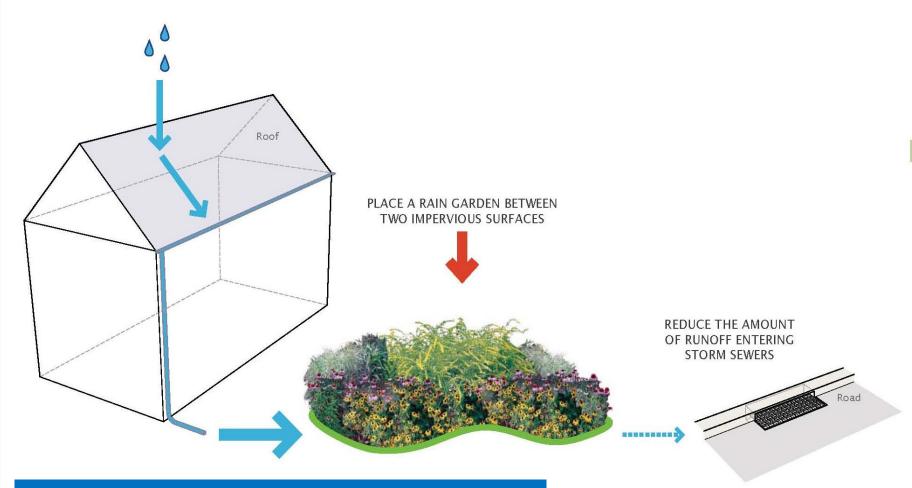
#### **ADVANTAGES**

Easy and inexpensive

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

Only manage small amounts of rainfall

#### **Disconnection with Rain Gardens**

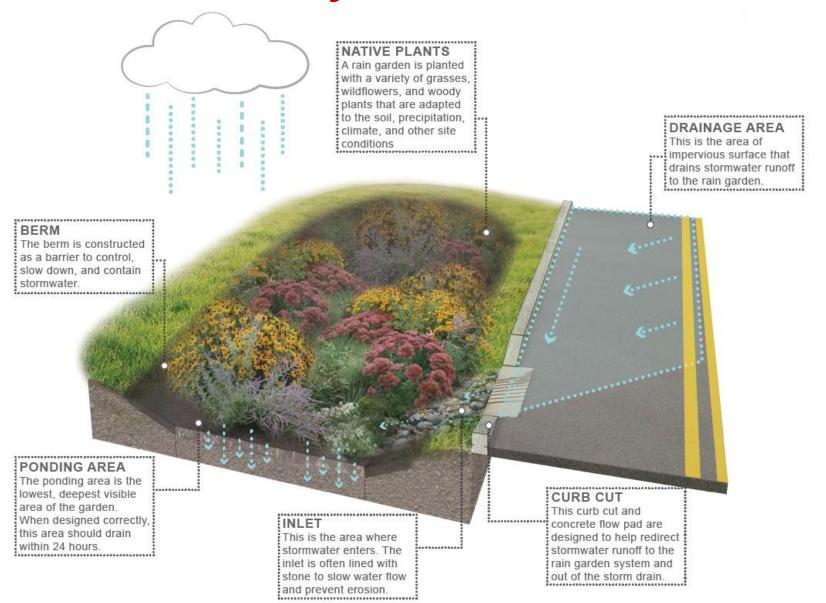


Rooftop runoff is now <u>"disconnected"</u> from flowing directly into the storm sewer system





#### **Bioretention Systems/Rain Gardens**







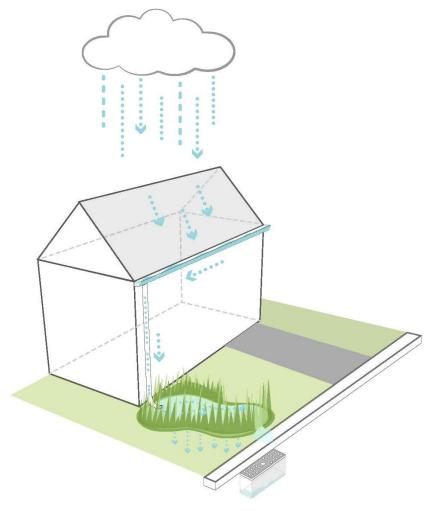






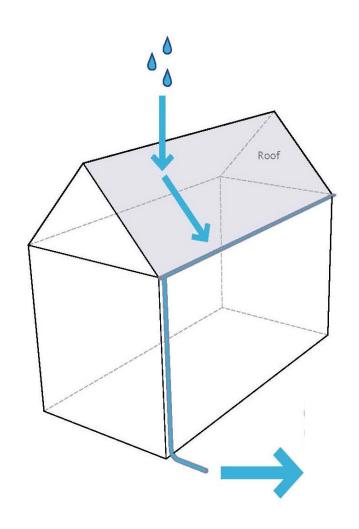
# Bioretention Systems/Rain Gardens

- Rain gardens can be implemented throughout communities to begin the process of re-establishing the natural function of land.
- They offer one of the quickest and easiest methods to reduce runoff and help protect our water resources.





#### **Disconnect with a Rain Barrel**



Disconnect your downspout by installing a rain barrel



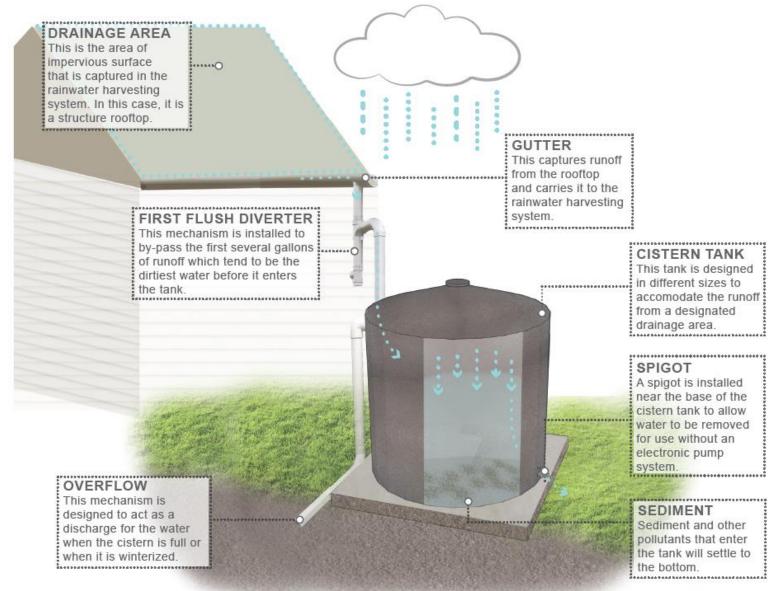
REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF RUNOFF ENTERING STORM SEWERS



Impervious area is now <u>"disconnected"</u> from flowing directly into the storm sewer system



### Rainwater Harvesting Systems













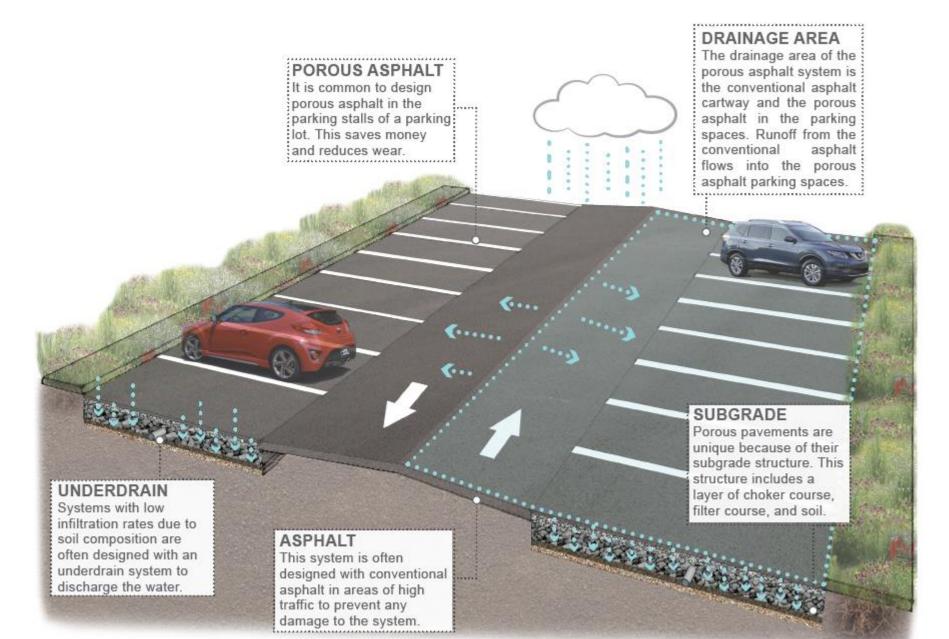


#### So Many Barrels to Choose From...





#### **Permeable Pavements**



#### **Permeable Pavements**

- Underlying stone reservoir
- Porous asphalt and pervious concrete are manufactured without "fine" materials to allow infiltration
- Grass pavers are concrete interlocking blocks with open areas to allow grass to grow
- Ideal application for porous pavement is to treat a low traffic or overflow parking area

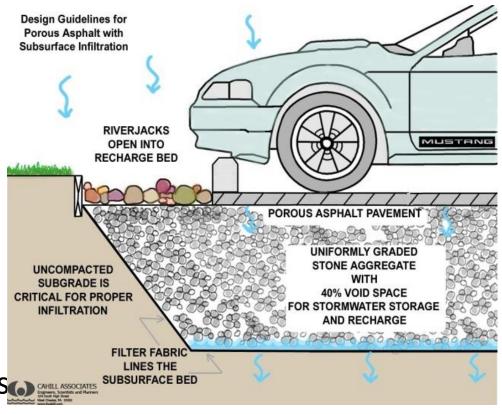




#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **COMPONENTS**

- Manage stormwater runoff
- Minimize site disturbance
- Promote groundwater recharge
- Low life cycle costs, alternative to costly traditional stormwater management methods
- Mitigation of urban heat island effect
- Contaminant removal as water moves through layers of system



### **Porous Asphalt**



#### **Grass Pavers**



# HOW CAN I HELP MY COMMUNITY?

The Road to Sustainable and Environmental-Friendly Communities





# Remember, it's about managing impervious surfaces!



Eliminate it!



Change it!



**Disconnect it!** 



Reuse it!



## Ways You Can Help



Install a Rain Garden!



Install a Rain Barrel!



Plant a Tree!

### Ways You Can Help







# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDANCE MANUAL

FOR NEW JERSEY





visit www.cpe.rutgers.edu/urbanext to register





# Questions and/or Comments

Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E.

obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu

www.water.rutgers.edu

