

Rain Gardens and Managing Storm Water for the Home Gardener

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Jason Loseke

Cedar Cove Landscapes

Rain and Water

Such a great thing! But can create issues for the home landscape.

Erosion



Or Just Too Much All At Once



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Rain Gardens, Dry Creek Beds and French Drains

They help to slow down storm waters allowing for more absorption into the soil.

They help clean sediment and chemicals from runoff.

They can be simple.



Or extravagant systems.



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Site and Size

Steep slopes are difficult. Rain gardens are typically wide and somewhat flat, which means on a slope it will require extra soil and engineering on the downhill side.

Often used to catch water from downspouts and pavement, be sure to site them away from foundation walls.

Average 100-300 square feet. Many factors for how much water a rain garden will handle...Rule of Thumb... you probably cant make one too big and even a small garden is beneficial!

Water 6 inches deep is great. Plan to dig deeper to allow for base materials like 2” of compost and 2” for mulch. For starters!

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Do A Test

Dig a hole about 1 foot deep when soil is moderately dry.

A post hole digger works great.

If hole fills with any ground water you will need a different site or a different plan.

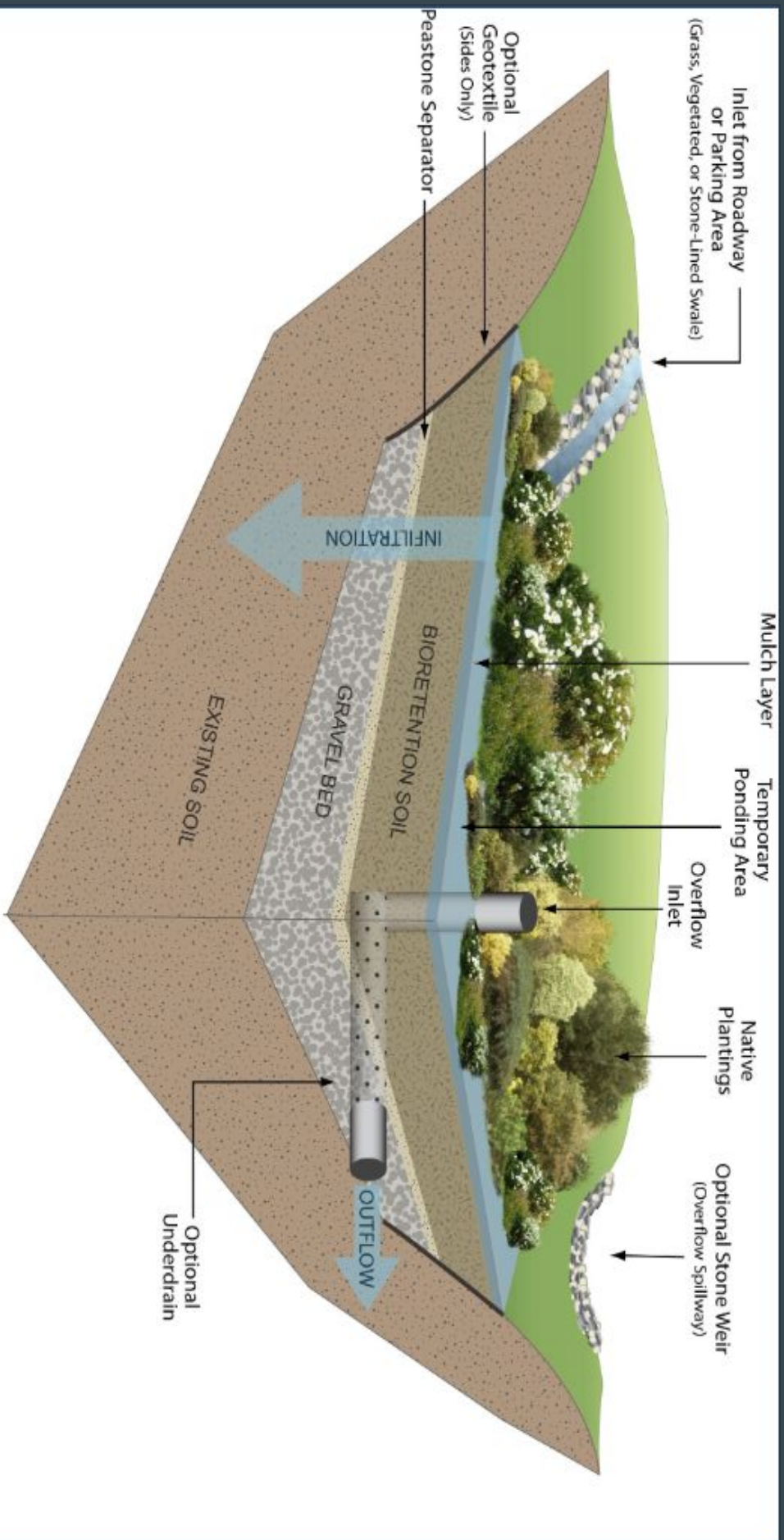
Fill it with water and check at regular intervals.

12 hours = excellent drainage

24 hours = good

48 hours = acceptable

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Bioretention areas are similar to rain gardens, but are more highly engineered to include an underdrain, overflow inlet, gravel bed, and engineered soils to promote infiltration.



Think outside the box.
You could raise the
sidewalk.

Or regrade the lawn.

Or put in drainage.

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Drainage Systems



Usually I'm called to fix mistakes.

Less than 6 month old system wasn't working "for some reason".

Always run the water downhill.

Be careful during backfill stage.

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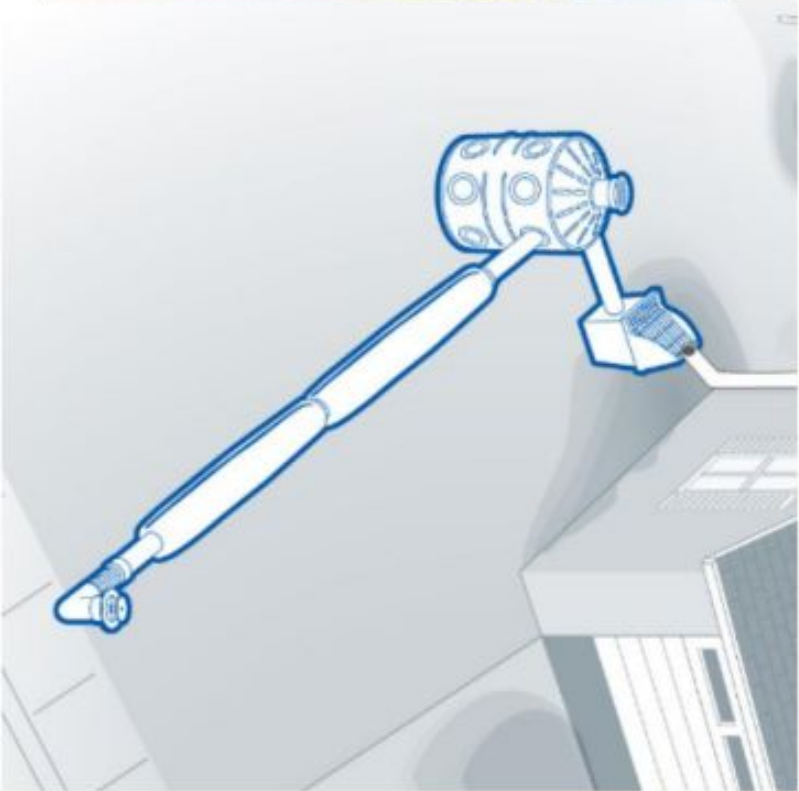
French or not so French

A French drain is a hole or trench often filled with gravel and/or man-made products that take water in either from a downspout, catch basin or wet area and then allow the water to absorb back out. - much larger trench, more materials, more \$

A Not-So-French drain is a solid pipe that transfers water from one location to another.

Both can remove and transfer water. Both **MUST** have an out or overflow

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Dealing with downspouts, surface water & improved grading. Sometimes one, often all three.



Not-So-French



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Path. Dry Creek. Drainage. All of the above?



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And our fave, Dry Creeks...!



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Questions...???

Jason Loseke (Low-ski)

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704-726-2742

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