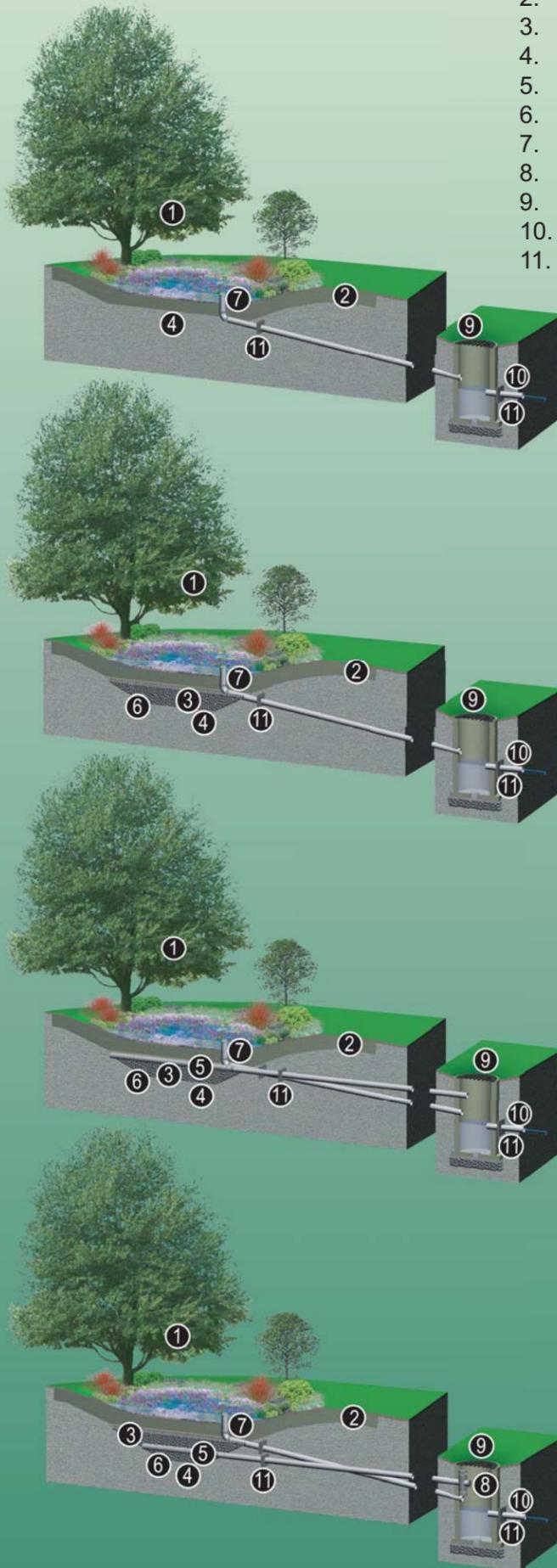


DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Literature suggests rain garden areas of about 10-20% of upstream impervious area. For GVRD, calculate rain garden area by continuous flow modelling. Optimum rain garden size is about 50sq.m. draining 250sq.m. of impervious area.
- Smaller, distributed rain gardens are better than single large scale facilities.
- Locate rain gardens a minimum 30.5m from wells, 3m downslope of building foundations, and only in areas where foundations have footing drains and are not above steep slopes.
- Provide pretreatment and erosion control i.e. grass filter strip to avoid introducing sediment into the garden.
- At point-source inlets, install non-erodible material, sediment cleanout basins, and weir flow spreaders.
- Bottom width - 600mm (Min.) to 3000mm (desirable). Length-width ratio of 2:1.
- Side slopes - 2:1 maximum, 4:1 preferred for maintenance. Maximum ponded level - 150 - 300mm.
- Draw-down time for maximum ponded volume - 72 hours.
- Treatment soil depth - 450mm (Min.) to 1200mm (desirable); use soils with minimum infiltration rate of 13mm/hr.
- Surface planting should be primarily trees, shrubs, and groundcovers, with planting designs respecting the various soil moisture conditions in the garden. Plantings may include rushes, sedges and grasses as well as lawn areas for erosion control and multiple uses.
- Apply a 50-75mm layer of organic mulch for both erosion control and to maintain infiltration capacity.
- Install a non-erodible outlet or spillway to discharge overflow.
- Avoid utility or other crossings of the rain garden. Where utility trenches must be constructed below the garden, install trench dams to avoid infiltration water following the utility trench.
- Drain rock reservoir and perforated drain pipe may be avoided where infiltration tests by a design professional show a subsoil infiltration rate that exceeds the inflow rate.

An **Infiltration Rain Garden** is a form of bioretention facility designed to have aesthetic appeal as well as a stormwater function. Rain gardens are commonly a concave landscaped area where runoff from roofs or paving infiltrates into deep constructed soils and subsoils below. On subsoils with low infiltration rates, Rain Gardens often have a drain rock reservoir and perforated drain system to convey away excess water.



1. Tree, Shrub and Groundcover Plantings
2. Growing Medium Minimum 450mm Depth
3. Drain Rock Reservoir
4. Flat Subsoil - scarified
5. Perforated Drain Pipe 150mm Dia. Min.
6. Geotextile Along All Sides of Drain Rock Reservoir
7. Overflow (standpipe or swale)
8. Flow Restrictor Assembly
9. Secondary Overflow Inlet at Catch Basin
10. Outflow Pipe to Storm Drain or Swale System
11. Trench Dams at All Utility Crossings

Full Infiltration

Where all inflow is intended to infiltrate into the underlying subsoil. Candidate in sites with subsoil permeability > 30mm/hr. An overflow for large events is provided by pipe or swale to the storm drain system.

Full Infiltration with Reservoir

Adding a drain rock reservoir so that surface water can move quickly through the installed growing medium and infiltrate slowly into subsoils from the reservoir below. Candidate in sites with subsoil permeability > 15mm/hr.

Partial Infiltration

Designed so that most water may infiltrate into the underlying soil while the surplus overflow is drained by perforated pipes that are placed near the top of the drain rock reservoir. Suitable for sites with subsoil permeability > 1 and < 15mm/hr.

Partial Infiltration with Flow Restrictor

For sites with subsoil permeability < 1mm/hr, the addition of a flow restrictor assembly with a small orifice slowly decants the top portion of the reservoir and rain garden. Provides water quality treatment and some infiltration, while acting like a small detention facility.

Rain Garden



Greater
Vancouver
Regional
District

Stormwater Source Control Design Guidelines 2005



Goya Ngan
Landscape Architect

Detailed design guidelines can be found in the Design Guidelines 2005 report, available at www.gvrd.bc.ca