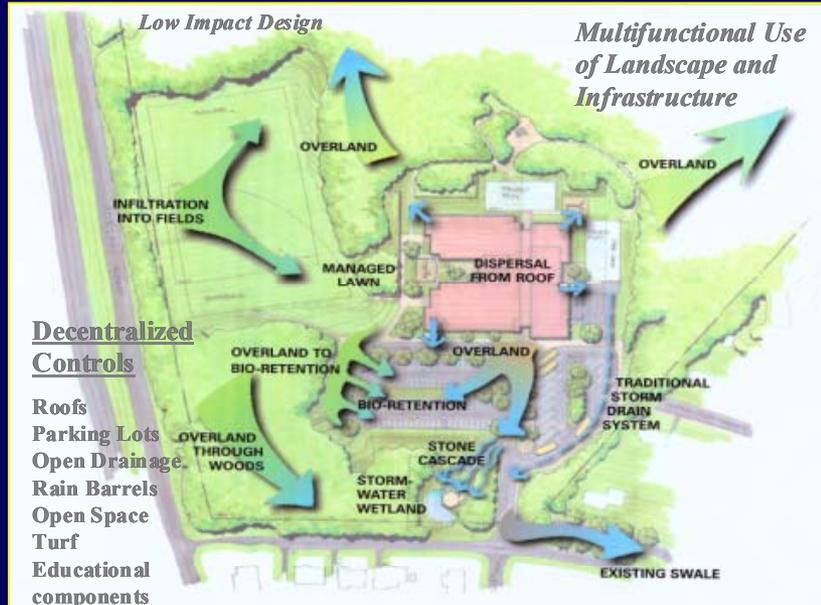


# Bioretention Workshop



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**Programs and Planning Division**  
**Prince George's County**  
**Department of Environmental Resources**  
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**Phone: 301-883-5834**



**County Executive**  
**Jack B. Johnson**

# What is Bioretention?

“Filtering stormwater runoff through a terrestrial aerobic (upland) plant / soil / microbe complex to remove pollutants through a variety of physical, chemical and biological processes.”

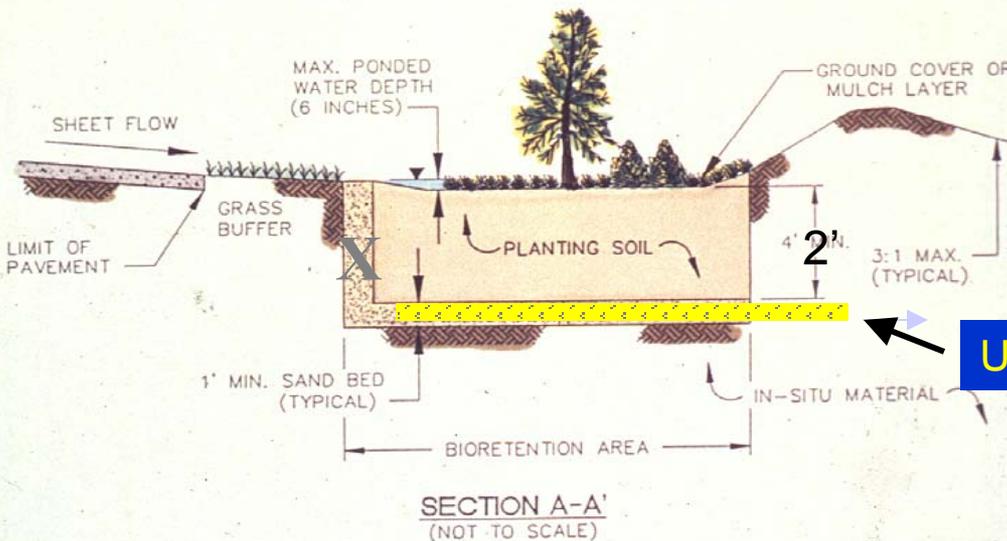
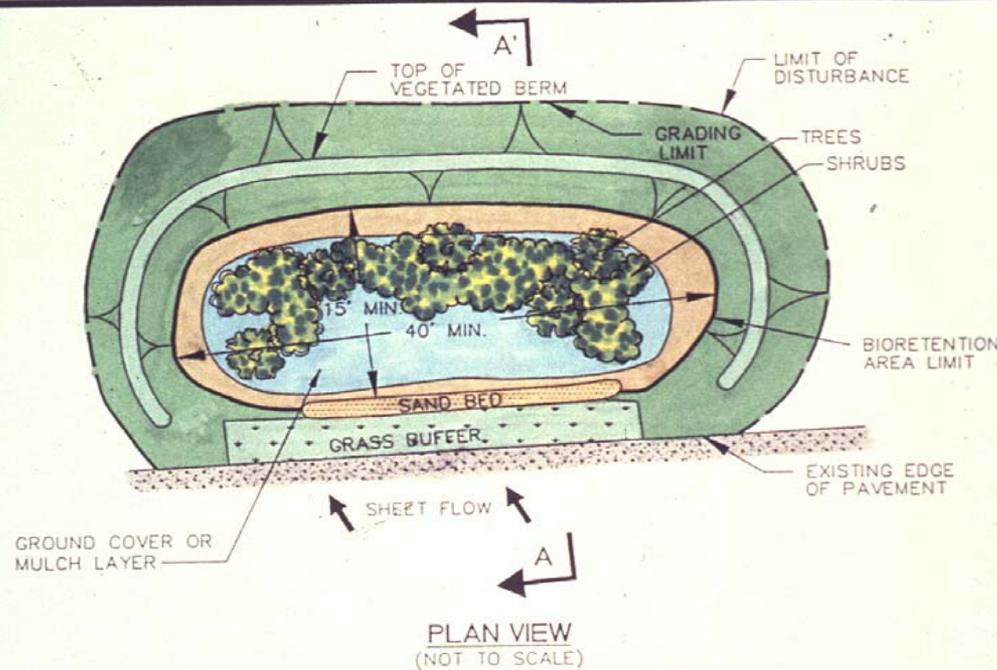
The word “bioretention” was derived from the fact that the biomass of the plant / microbe (flora and fauna) complex retains or uptakes many of the pollutants of concern such as N, P and heavy metals.

It is the optimization and combination of bioretention, biodegradation, physical and chemical that makes this system the most efficient of all BMP's



# Bioretention

- Shallow Ponding - 4" to 6"
- Soil Depth 2' - 2.5'
- Sandy Top Soil
  - 65% Sand
  - 20% Sandy Loam
  - 15% Compost
- Under Drain System
- Plant Selection



Under Drain

**Aesthetic Value / Habitat Value**

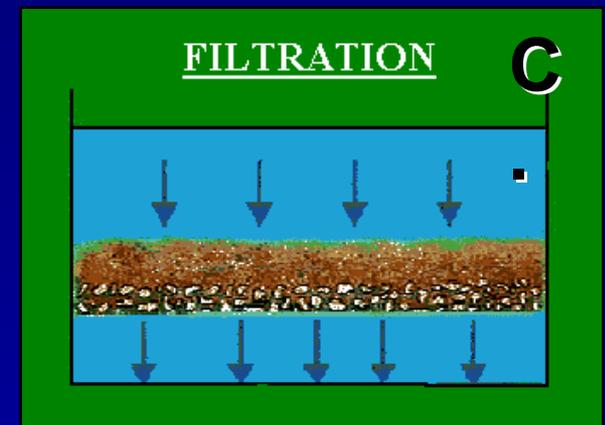
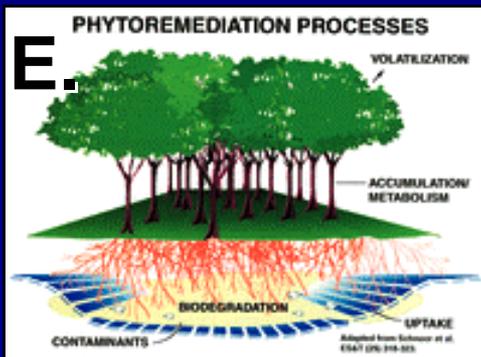
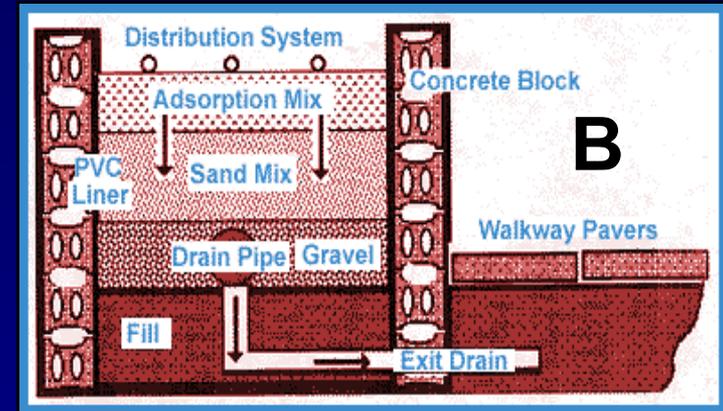
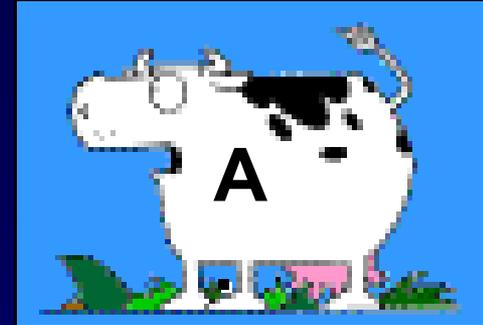
**Property Value / Low Cost**

**Low Maintenance**

**PARKING EDGE AND PERIMETER WITHOUT CURB**

# Background

- Historical Use of Plant / Soil Filters
  - Agriculture (1 cow / 1.17ac)
  - Wastewater Treatment
  - Water Supply
  - Bioremediation
  - Phytoremediation



# Background

## Soil Ecosystem Functions

Physical / Chemical / Biological

### 1. Hydrology

*storage / evaporation / recharge / detention*

### 2. Storing Cycling Nutrients (bacteria / fungi)

*phosphorous / nitrogen / carbon*

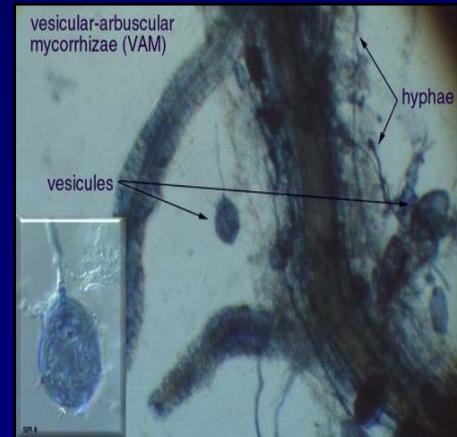
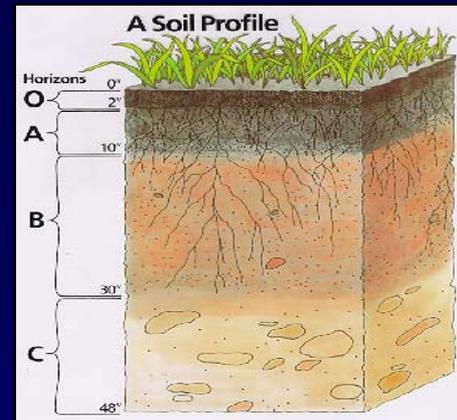
### 3. Plant Productivity (vigor)

### 4. Water Quality

*filter / buffer / degrade / immobilize*

*detoxify organic and inorganic materials*

*“Most diverse ecosystem in the world”*



# Rain Gardens



MAY 21 2001

# Design Features

- Upland Terrestrial Forest / Meadow
  - Mulch
  - Shallow Ponding Area (4” to 6”)
  - Plants (facultative)
  - Fertile Top Soil (Sandy / 2.5’)
  - Good Drainage
    - Under Drains
    - High Flows / By Pass / Off Line

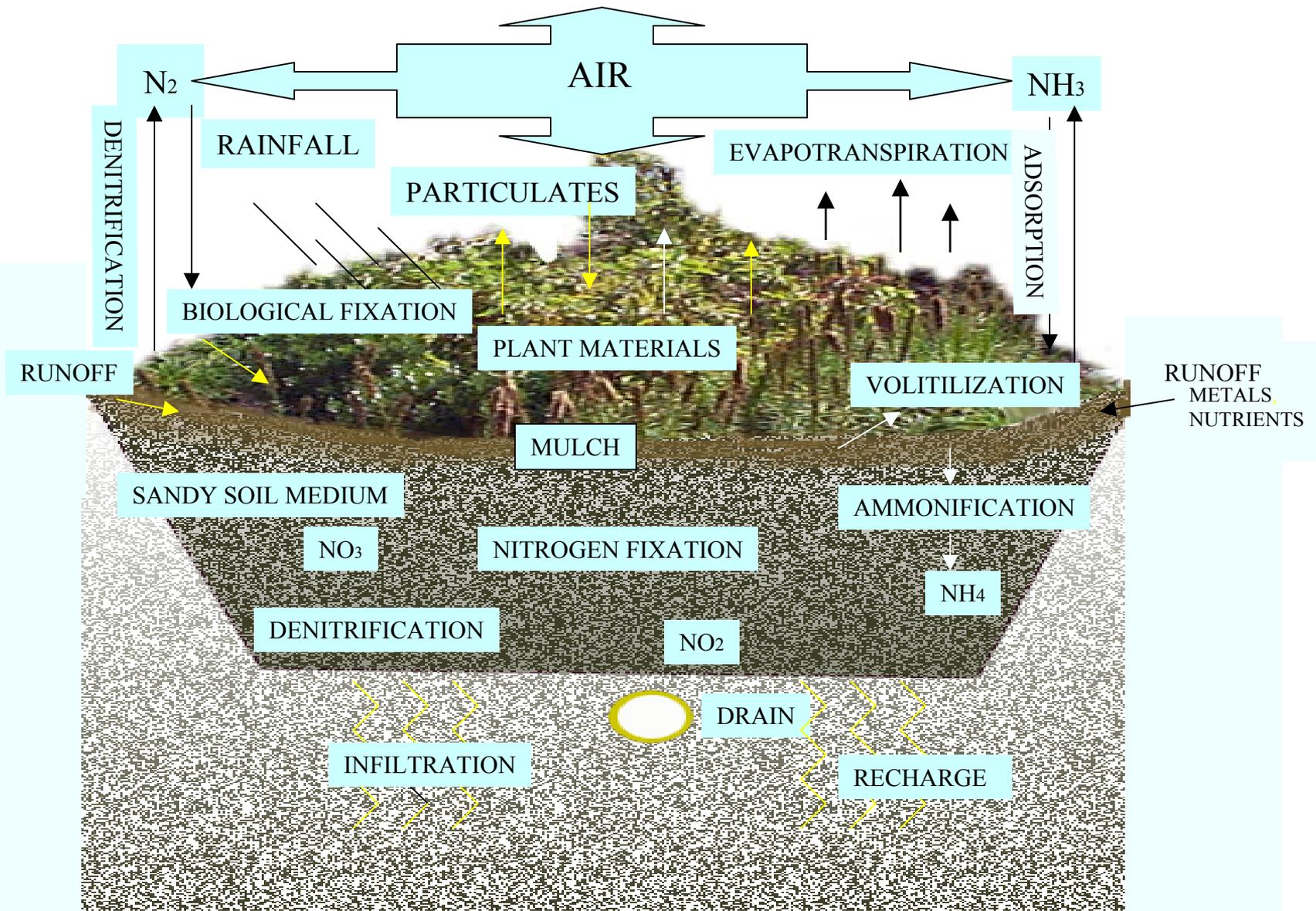
# Other Interesting Study Findings

- Mulch and Metals
- Plants and Metals
- Capacity / Longevity of the System
- Time For Reactions (Residence Time)



# Pollutant Removal Mechanisms

- Soil / Physical / Chemical
  - Sedimentation
  - Filtration
  - Adsorption
  - Precipitation
  - Humic / Clays / Silts
    - Electrostatic / Ion Exchange

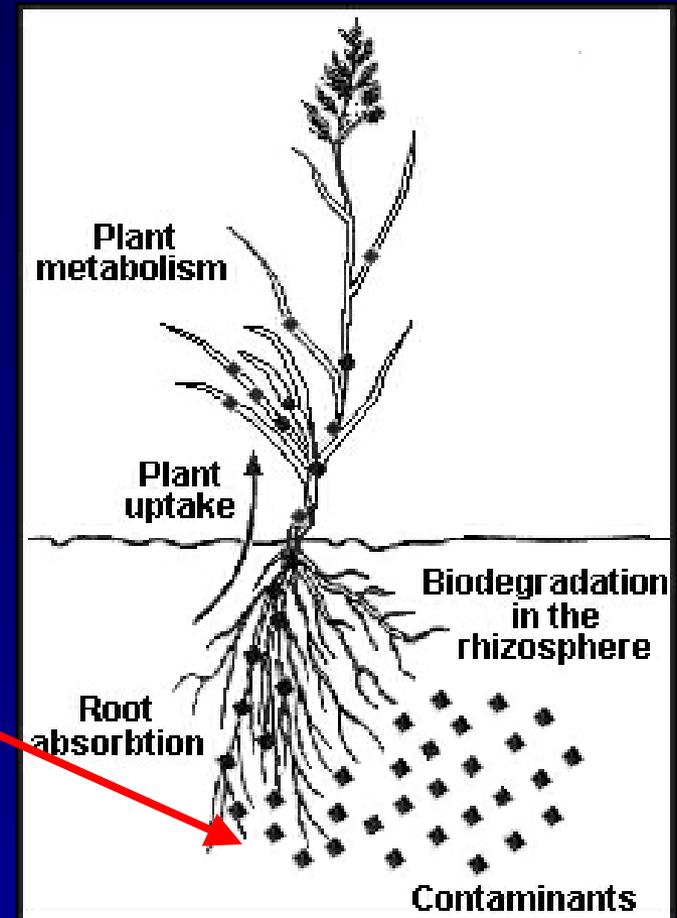
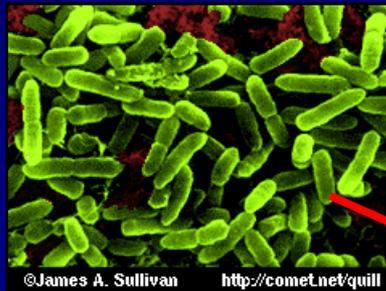


**NITROGEN CYCLE FOR BIORETENTION**

# Uplands Pollutant Removal

## Plants / Soil Flora -Fauna / Soil Chemistry

- Phytoremediation
  - Translocate
  - Accumulate
  - Metabolize
  - Volatilize
  - Detoxify
  - Degrade
    - Exudates
- Bioremediation
- Soils
  - **Capture / Immobilize Pollutants**



A close-up photograph of a yellow and black swallowtail butterfly perched on a purple spike of a gayfeather plant. The butterfly is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing right. Its wings are spread, showing the characteristic yellow and black stripes. The plant has several tall, slender spikes of small, purple flowers. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a garden or field setting.

Swallowtail on Spiked  
Gayfeather

*Liatris spicata*

# *Value of the Plants*

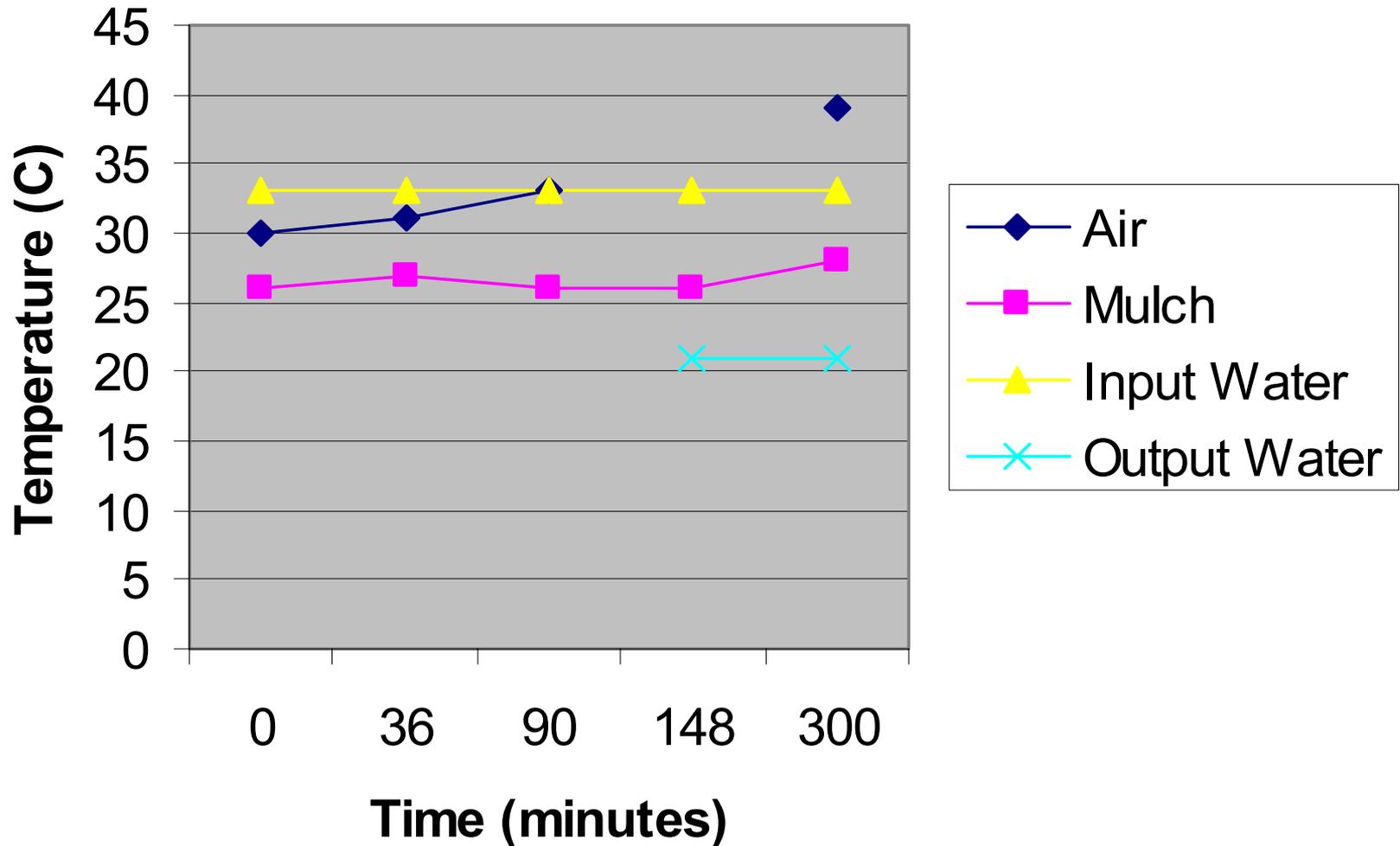
Aesthetics

Habitat

Treatment

Air Pollution

# Bioretention Temperature Data



Dr. Davis Inglewood Study- 6/9/99

# Percent Removal

(Bench Models / Field Summary)

	<b>Cu</b>	<b>Pb</b>	<b>Zn</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>TKN</b>	<b>NH4</b>	<b>NO3</b>	<b>TN</b>
<b>Upper</b>	90	93	87	0	37	54	-97	-29
<b>Middle</b>	93	99	98	73	60	86	-194	0
<b>Lower</b>	93	99	99	81	68	79	23	43

Dr. Allen Davis, University of Maryland, Department Civil Engineering  
Derek Winogradoff, Senior Engineer, Prince George's County, Md.

- Bioretention in a Box
- Artificial Runoff Solution
- Varied Flow Rates
- Varied Concentrations (1/2 - 2x)

# *Pollutant Removal*

Oil and Grease Over 95% Removal

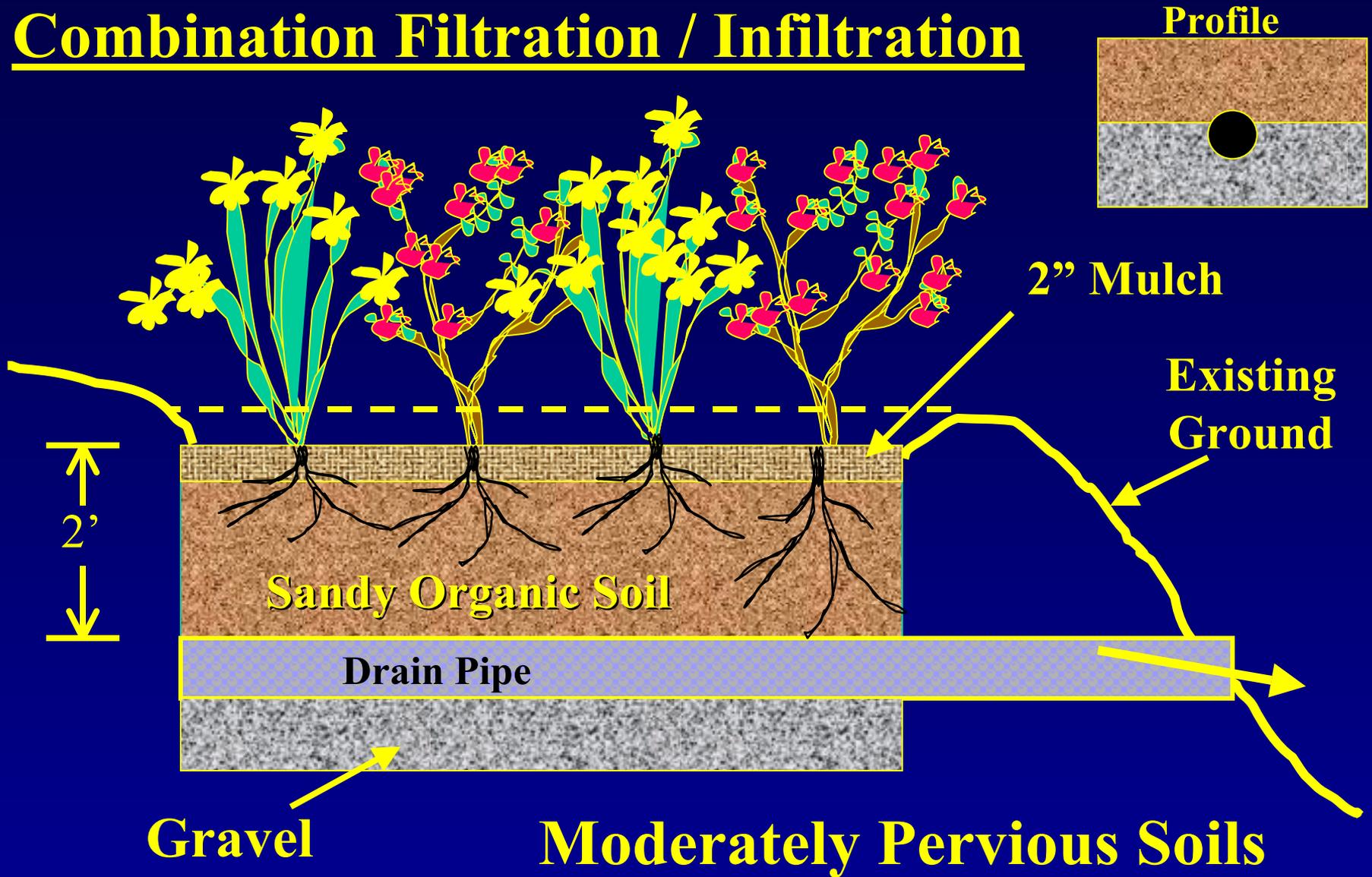
Dr. Eric Seagren - University Maryland

Removal Mechanism

Capture by mulch / soil / bacteria

Metabolized by bacteria

# Combination Filtration / Infiltration



# *Bioretention Applications*





High Flow Rate Filter and Infiltration  
Treats 90% of Total Annual Volume

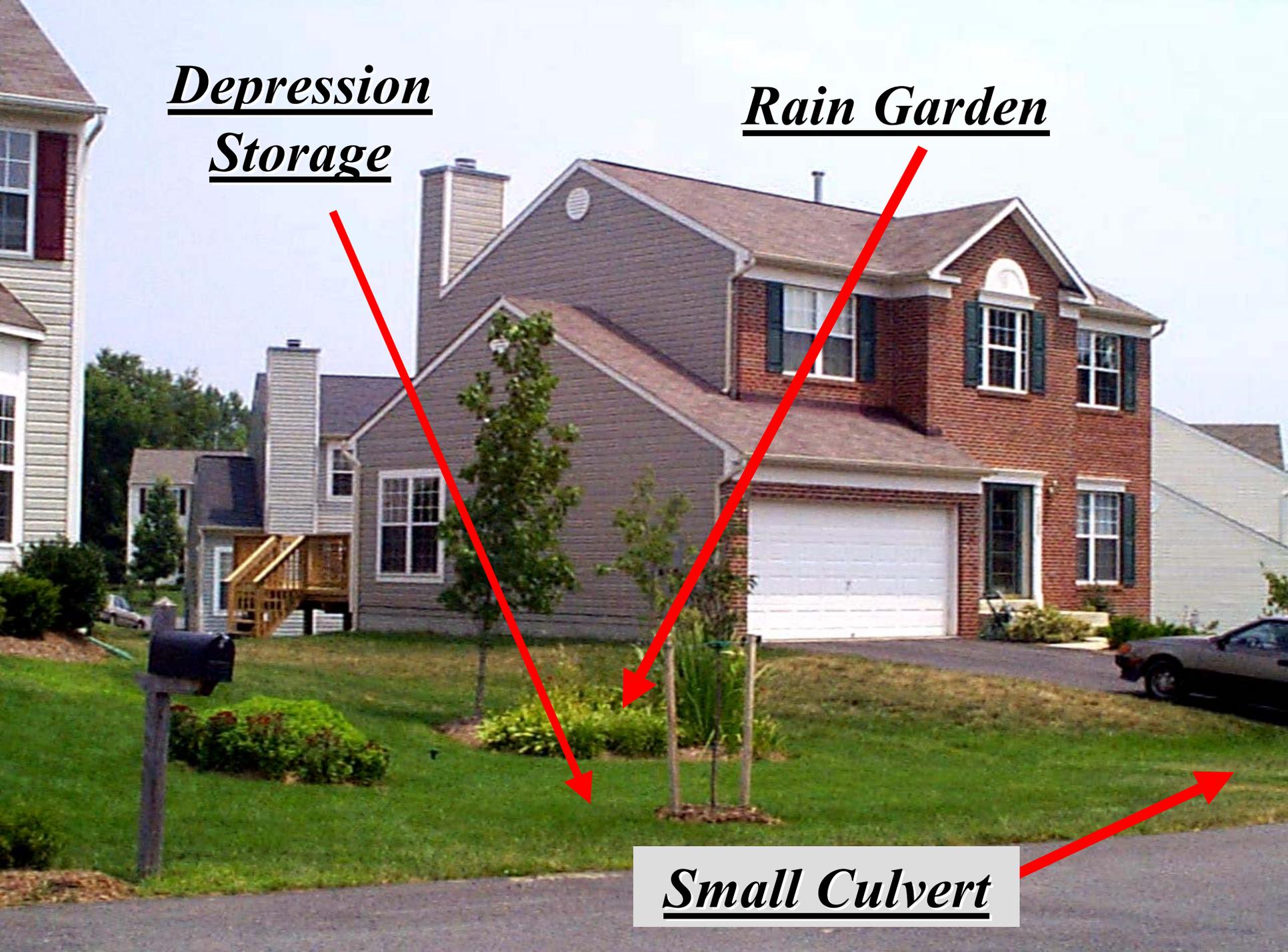






*Depression Storage*

*Rain Garden*



*Small Culvert*



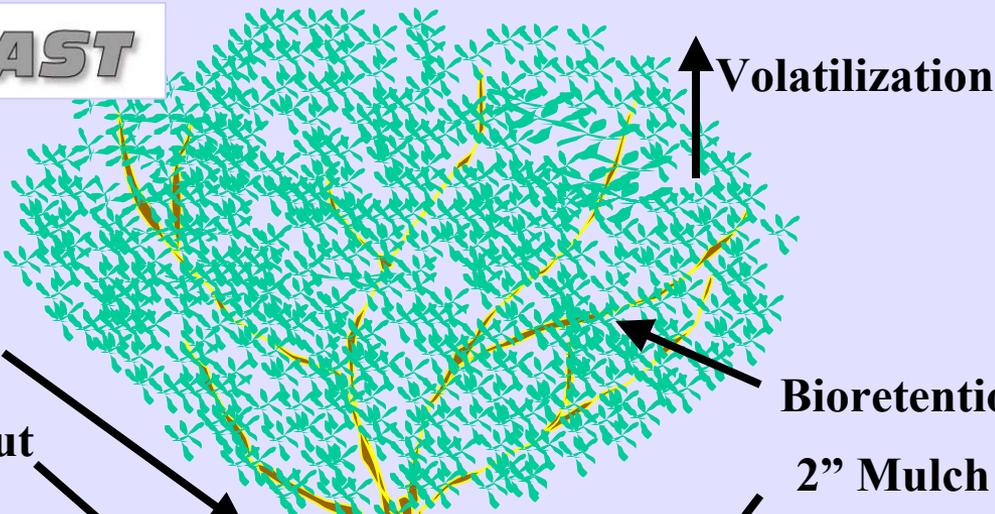


# Transportation Departments









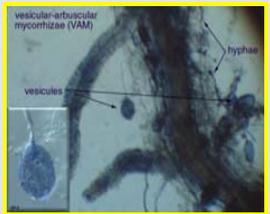
Tree Grate

Clean-out

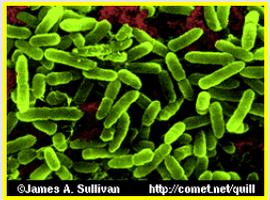
2" Mulch

Roadway

Root Uptake

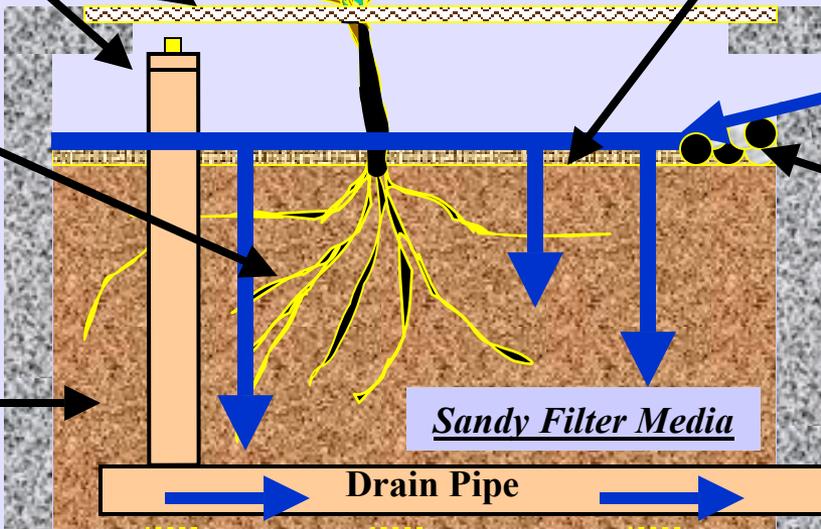


Biodegradation



Rip-Rap

Storm Drain



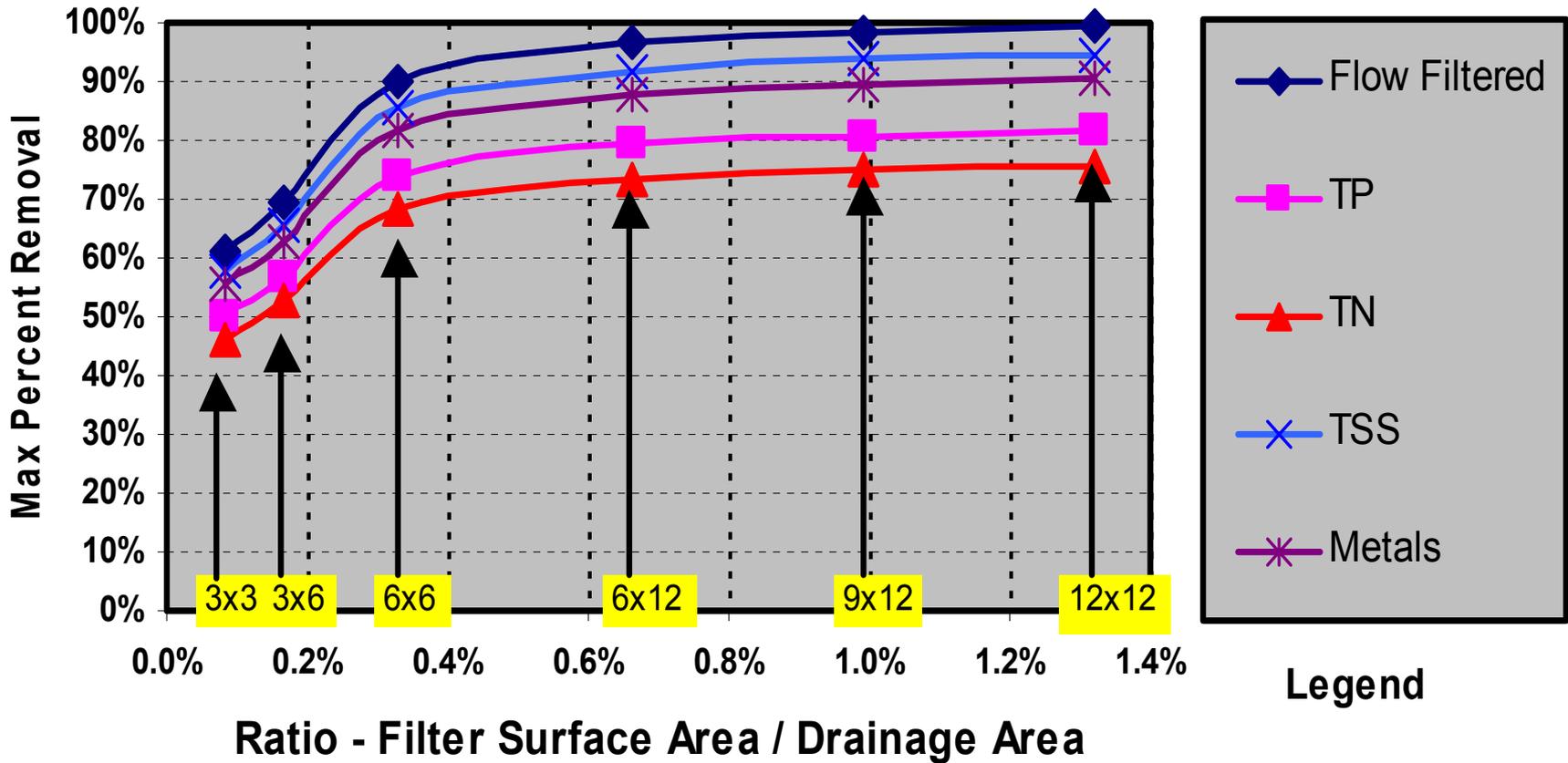
*Sandy Filter Media*

Drain Pipe

Optional Infiltration Storage

Drains to infiltration storage

# Performance Per 1/4 Acre Impervious Surface Area



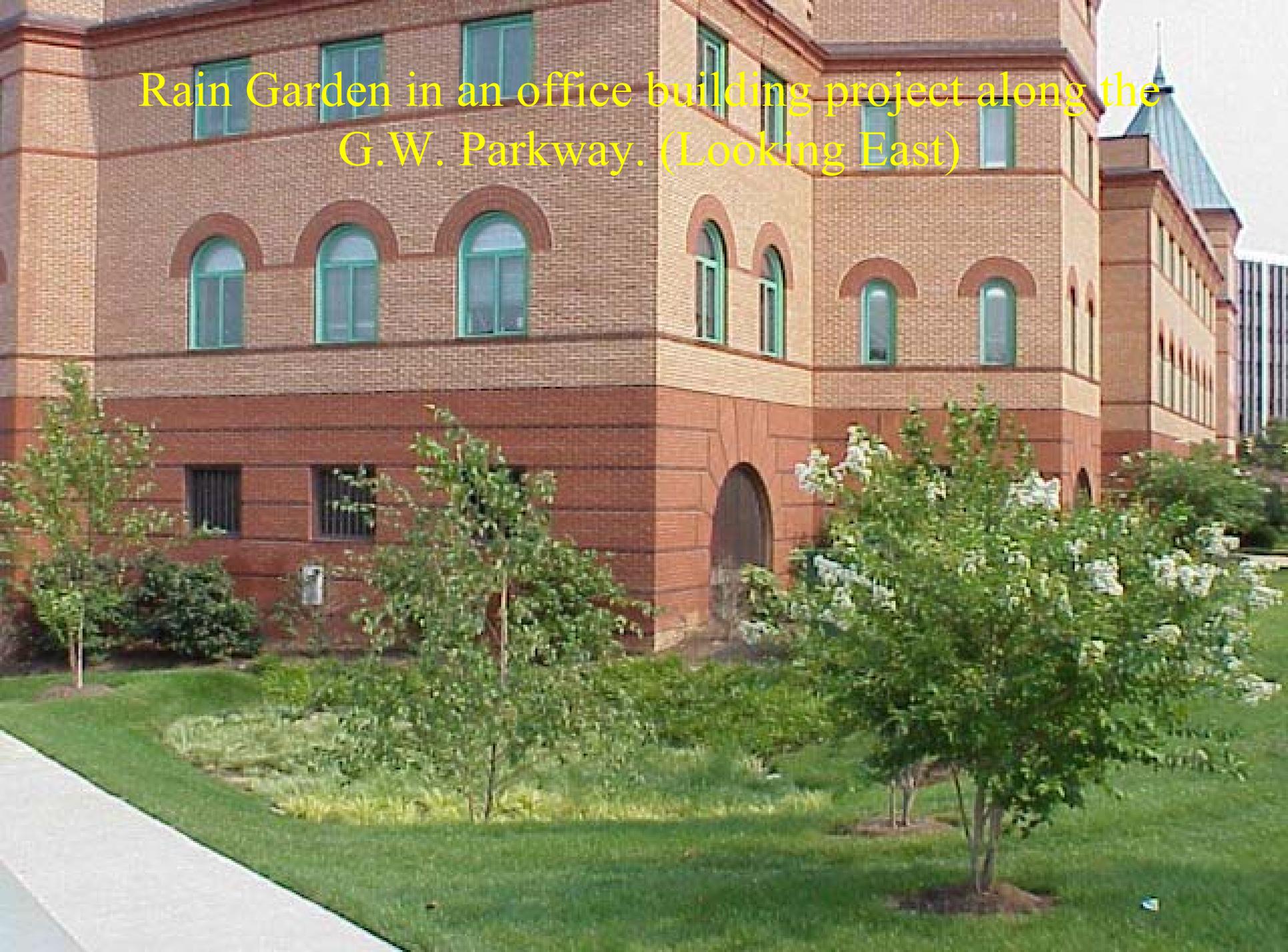
# *Virginia*

## Examples of Bioretention and Rain Gardens

DEQ / DCR

Larry Gavan

Rain Garden in an office building project along the G.W. Parkway. (Looking East)





Rain Garden in a median strip of a townhouse project just inside the beltway. Please note the depressed curb and grate inlet structure,



Rain Garden (in use) located in the entrance median to a town house Project.

**SALE**  
Julian Burke  
McEneaney Associates  
RE/MAX



Rain Garden (in use) in the front yard of a town house project.



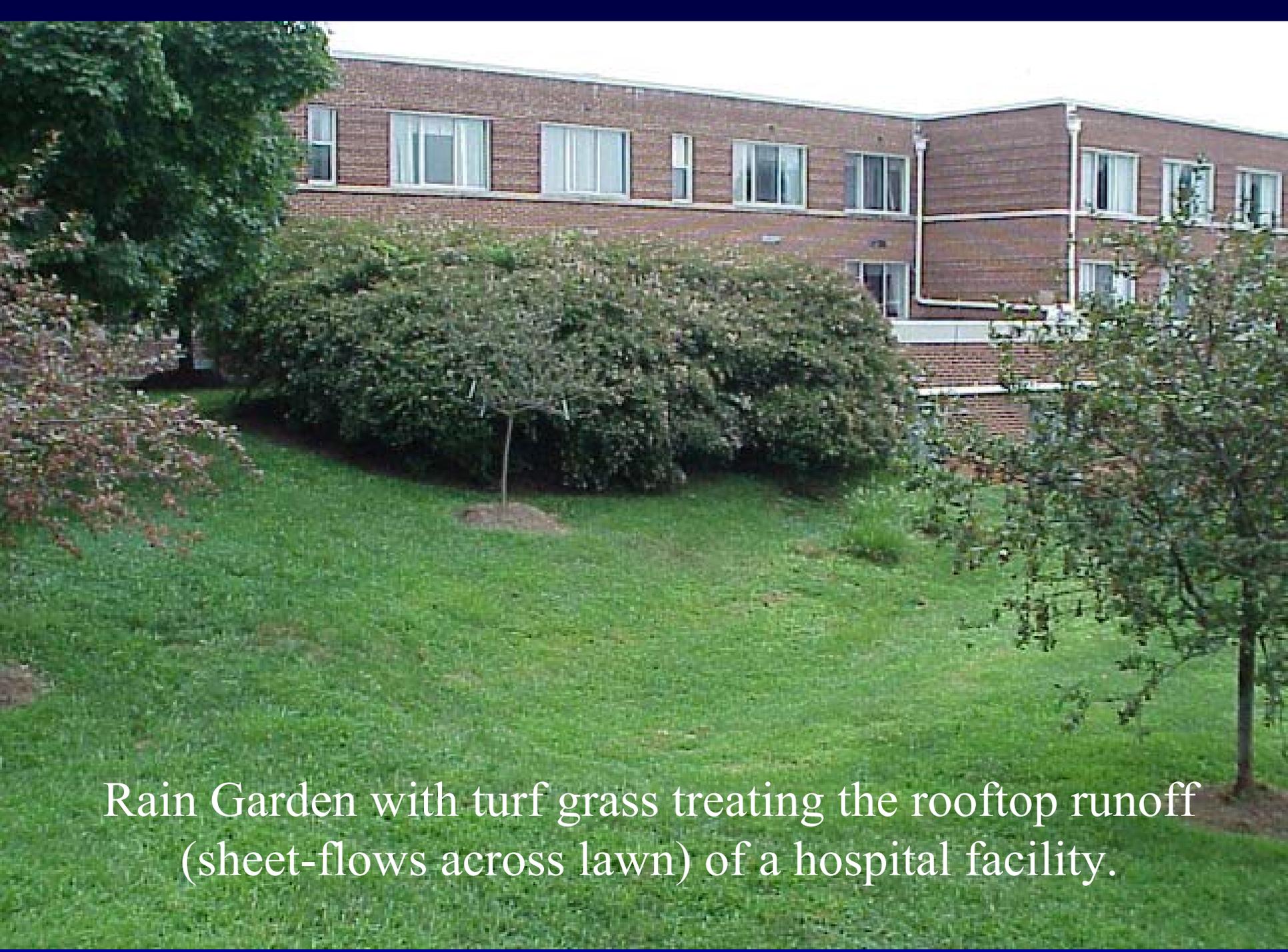
Rain Garden on a commercial project with turf grass  
near I-395 and Edsall Road.



The first Rain Garden in Virginia, located in a turning circle in front of St. Stephens School, Alexandria.



St. Stephens Rain Garden- 5 years later.



Rain Garden with turf grass treating the rooftop runoff (sheet-flows across lawn) of a hospital facility.



Rain Garden (in use) in a highly landscaped commercial site along Route. 1.



Rain Gardens used through-out the Alexandria Central Library to treat all impervious runoff



Rain Gardens located in the parking lot medians, note the curb slots to permit surface flow to enter.



# Failures

# Plant Density



# Plant Location





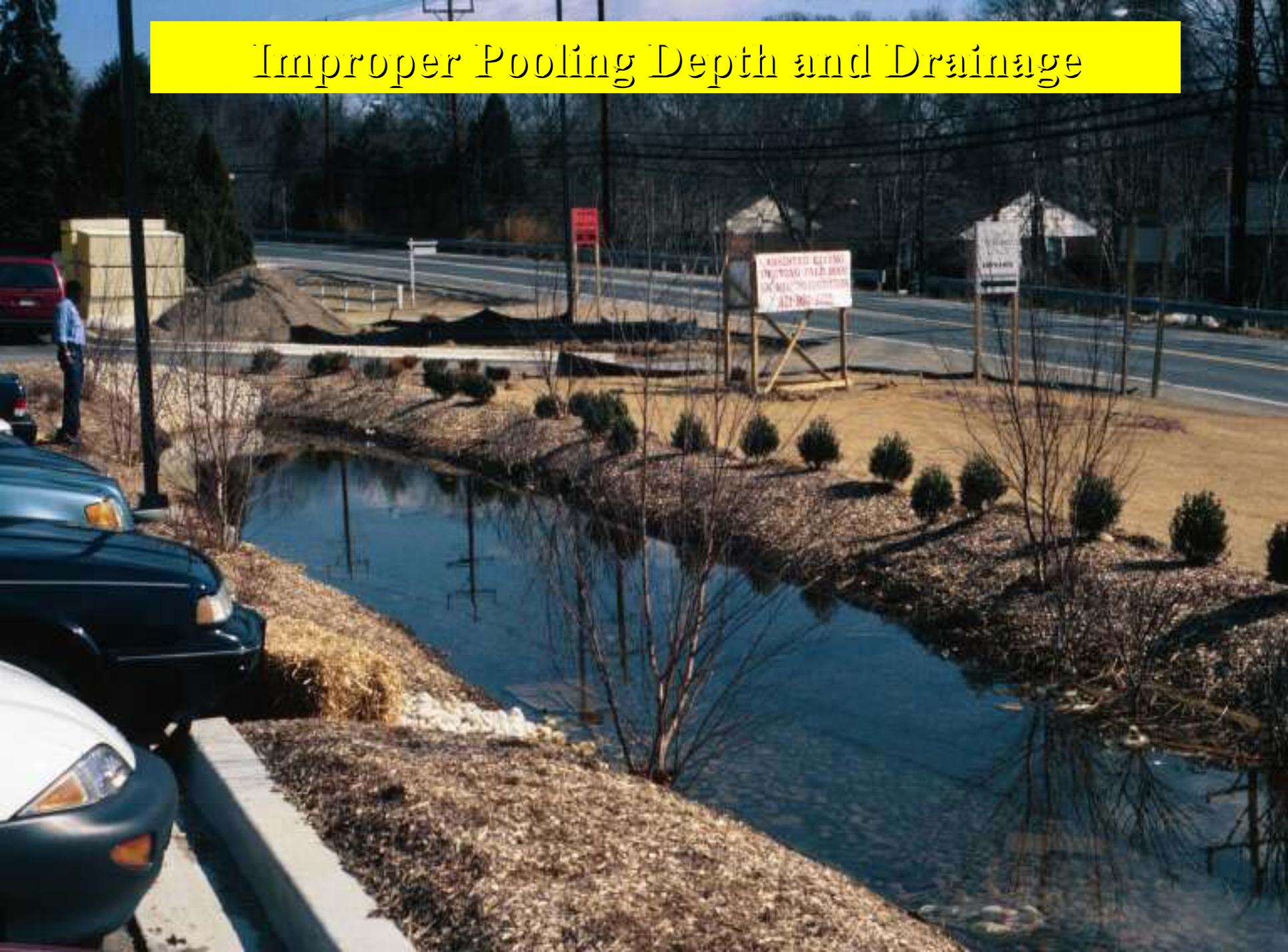
NOT  
ENTER



♿  
HANDICAPPED  
PARKING  
ONLY



# Improper Pooling Depth and Drainage





# WHAT'S NATIVE?



**Maintenance**







Maintenance Cost - \$200 / Year









**SPORTS**  
**AUTHORITY**



# Education & Training

Consultants

Reviewers

Builders

Contractors

Inspectors

Property Owners

Institutions

# Costs

# Bioretention Facility Site



## Stormwater Inlet Point



**Note:** Green shapes approximate location of facility. The facility extends off the photo to the left as well.

**Facility to be located in large grass island between roadway and parking lot.  
Facility has drainage area of 0.29 acres, nearly all impervious.**

# Bioretention Facility Design

- **Estimated Costs:**
  - Piping & Drainage \$1,500
  - Grading & Soil Preparation: \$695
  - Plants & Planting Costs: \$1,500
  - **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$3,695**
  - **Cost is \$12,741 per acre of drainage area served**
- **Estimated flow reductions to storm sewer of 25+% in average summer rainstorms**
- **Flow storage provided for 400 cf. of water, which is approximately the expected volume of runoff from an average summer rainshower producing 0.4” of precipitation**
- **In heavy storms, flow will fill bioretention and then bypass to existing storm sewer system**



# **Bioretention Benefits**

- **Restores Hydrologic Functions**
- **Economically Sustainable**
  - **Efficient Use of Space / Reduced Infrastructure**
  - **Property Value**
  - **Scale of Maintenance Burdens**
  - **Reduces Development Costs**
- **New Tool for Urban Retrofit**
- **Practical / Simple / Universally Applicable**