

# WHAT IF PALO ALTO STREETS WERE DESIGNED TO REDUCE STORM RUNOFF AND WATER POLLUTION WHILE ADDING BEAUTY?

In natural landscapes, rain soaks into the soil which slows the speed of runoff and filters pollutants. In urban areas, “impervious” surfaces such as roofs, concrete and asphalt interrupt this natural process. This increases flooding risks and pollution that washes into creeks and San Francisco Bay. “Green storm water infrastructure” mimics nature by slowing, spreading, sinking and filtering runoff. The Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requires Palo Alto and other Bay Area agencies to develop a Green Storm Water Infrastructure (GSI) Plan by September 30, 2019 and identify locations for GSI implementation.

## What Green Storm Water Infrastructure Looks Like.

**PERVIOUS** concrete, asphalt, and pavers reduce runoff by letting rain percolate into soil below. These surfaces can be used in crosswalks, sidewalks, plazas, driveways, parking spaces and emergency vehicle access lanes.



**BIORETENTION PLANTERS** are areas landscaped with native plants and underlain with layers of soil and crushed rock. These planters filter and treat storm runoff that is directed into them.

**RAINWATER CISTERN**

Cisterns capture rainwater so that it can be used for irrigation.

Rainwater Cistern in Coldwater Canyon Park, Beverly Hills. Photo courtesy of TreePeople.org



**GREEN ROOFS** are attractive and allow rainwater to soak into vegetation instead of running off the building. Green roofs also reduce heating and cooling costs and reduce heat-island effects.

Green roof installation on Mitchell Park Library, Palo Alto



**The City of Palo Alto offers commercial and residential rebates to install pervious surfaces, rain barrels and cisterns and green roofs. Visit [cityofpaloalto.org/stormwater](http://cityofpaloalto.org/stormwater) or call (650) 329-2295 to learn more.**

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations to access City facilities, services or programs, or who would like information on the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, may contact the City's ADA Coordinator at (650) 329-2550 (voice) or email [ada@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:ada@cityofpaloalto.org) 11/16  
♻️ Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, bleached without chlorine.



# Palo Alto's Storm Water Management Program Reduces Street Flooding and Protects Creeks.

**PREVENTING STREET FLOODING** relies on the smart design of City storm drain infrastructure and streetscapes that slow, spread and sink storm water runoff. The health of Palo Alto creeks depends on programs that keep litter, leaf debris, sewer overflows, and construction and industrial pollutants from entering our watershed. Since 2005, Palo Alto's Storm Water Management Program fees have funded seven high-priority storm drain pipeline and pump station capital improvement projects, a precedent-setting green infrastructure project (see reverse side), and more than 100 rebates to property owners for rainwater catchment, permeable driveways, and green roofs.



The San Francisquito Creek Storm Water Pump Station installed in 2009 clears storm water from streets in a 1,250 acre neighborhood in northeastern Palo Alto.



New storm drain pipes were installed along Channing Avenue in 2011 to reduce frequent street flooding along this important vehicle and bike corridor.



Storm Water Management Program fees funded commercial and residential rebate programs for permeable walkways and parking lots, rain barrels, cisterns and green roofs.



Engineered bioretention beds mimic nature by slowing, spreading, sinking and filtering storm water.



School programs, volunteer creek clean-up events and construction and industrial inspection services prevent storm water pollution.

For more information visit  
**cityofpaloalto.org/stormwaterfee** or call **(650) 329-2295**.

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations to access City facilities, services or programs, or who would like information on the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, may contact the City's ADA Coordinator at (650) 329-2550 (voice) or email [ada@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:ada@cityofpaloalto.org) 11/16 ♻️ Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, bleached without chlorine.

