

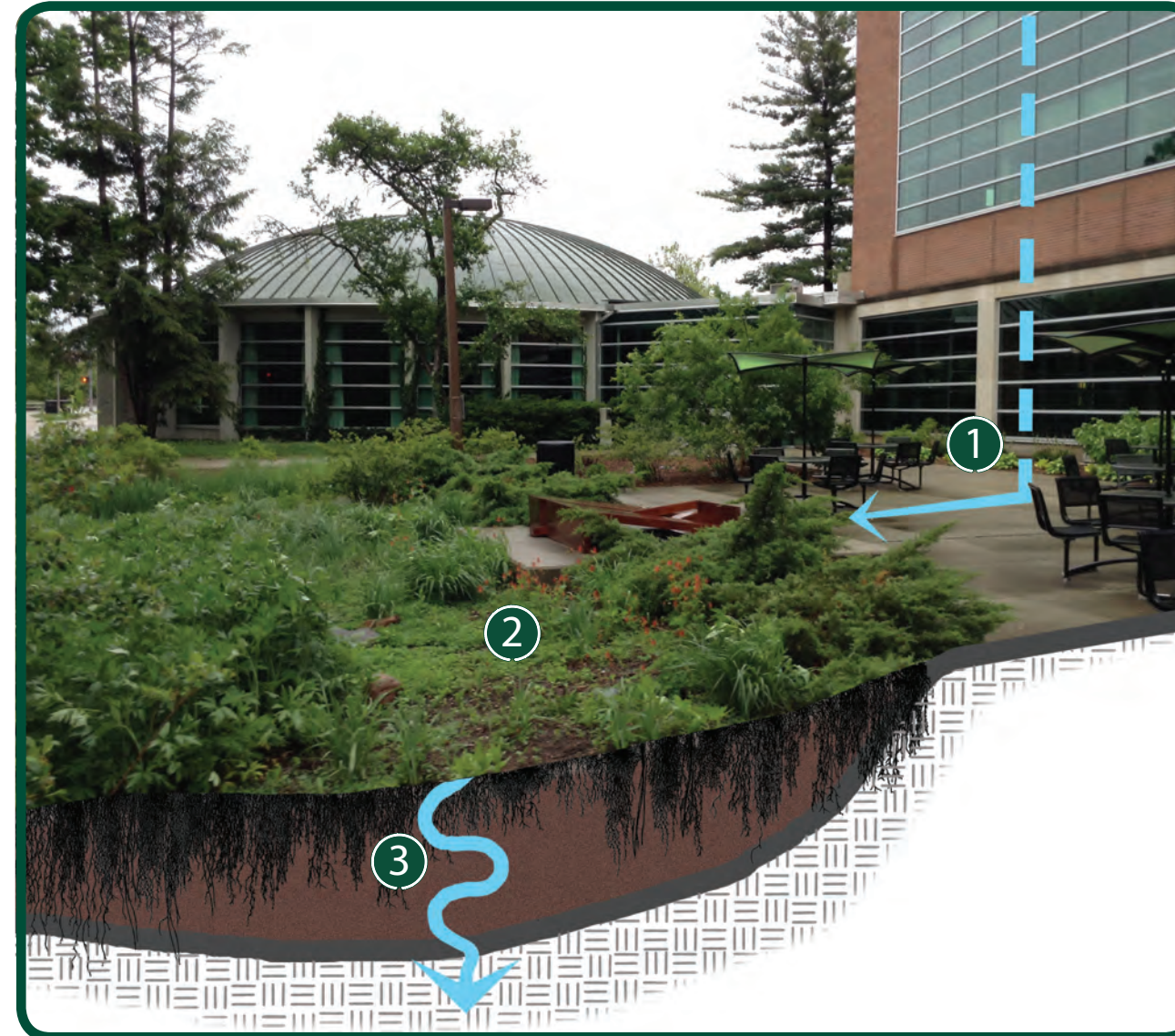
# MSU SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT WALKING TOUR

## ERICKSON HALL RAIN GARDEN

Michigan State University has implemented Low Impact Development (LID) practices to capture stormwater from surrounding roads, parking lots, and buildings.

Previously, water from these surfaces entered the storm sewer system, which led directly into the Red Cedar River.

Now, through a variety of LIDs, stormwater is captured and either reused or infiltrated on site. Capturing stormwater reduces pollutant runoff into the river therefore improving water quality.



① Stormwater coming from the Erickson Hall roof and adjacent patio enters the rain garden.

② Plants are able to uptake the water, nitrogen, phosphorus, metals, and other pollutants. Plants release oxygen and moisture into the air through transpiration. The roots of the plants help this infiltration process by creating channels for the water to infiltrate.

③ Water infiltrates into the ground. The soil media acts as a filter, which helps break down stormwater pollutants and purifies the water. It also reduces the volume of water reaching the Red Cedar River. This helps prevent bank erosion and flooding, promoting healthier river environments for plants and animals.

### Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a form of bioretention that allows stormwater runoff to collect in a depressed area in the landscape. The water is taken up by plants and released into the atmosphere through transpiration or is infiltrated into the soil profile. The roots of the plants help this process by creating channels for the water to infiltrate. Because of this, stormwater runoff isn't directly put into a pipe that goes straight into the Red Cedar River, and pollution as well as high water levels during major rainfall events are reduced.

### Did You Know?

This rain garden contains native plant species to Michigan. Mulch and a rapidly draining soil media provide an optimal growing environment for these plants. This garden is 2,500 square feet. Its drainage area is 5,606 square feet. The water storage volume is 2,700 cubic feet.

### Contributing Departments

Infrastructure Planning and Facilities  
Institute of Water Research  
Department of Horticulture



**SUSTAINABILITY**

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