

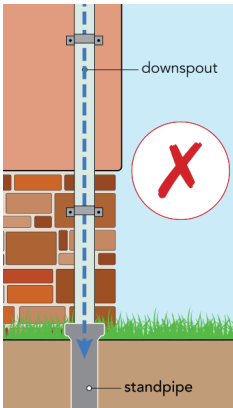
# DRAIN the RAIN!

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

### DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION PROGRAM...DRAIN the RAIN!

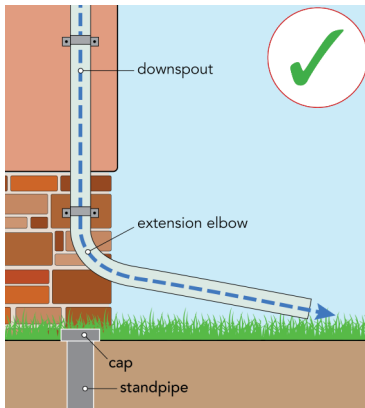
Like many other cities, the older portions of the District's sewer system carries both sewage and stormwater in a combined sewer system. During storms, a combined sewer system can be overwhelmed, and sewage and stormwater can overflow into our local waterways. This overflow is called combined sewer overflow (CSO). CSOs release pollutants and can be harmful to the environment. Downspouts connected to the combined sewer system add to the CSO problem.

**YOU** can reduce CSOs and help clean the District's rivers by disconnecting your downspout! Join us and **DRAIN the RAIN!** The DC Clean Rivers Project is providing a voluntary program for **FREE** downspout disconnections with a **FREE** rain barrel in select areas (see map below). Read below to find out if you may be eligible for the program. More information can be found at [dcwater.com/draintherain](http://dcwater.com/draintherain).



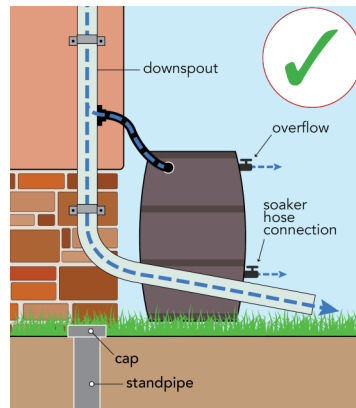
**DOWNSPOUT CONNECTED TO SEWER SYSTEM**

Downspouts connected directly to the combined sewer system contribute to combined sewer overflows (CSOs).



**DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTED FROM SEWER SYSTEM**

Downspout disconnection reduces CSOs. The process involves cutting the downspout, attaching an elbow and extension to direct the water to an adjacent pervious area, and capping the standpipe.



**DOWNSPOUT CONNECTED TO RAIN BARREL**

Downspouts can be connected to a rain barrel so that stormwater is collected and stored for non-potable uses (i.e. exterior washing, gardening).

#### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

- Is your home within the project area (see blue shaded area on map)?
- Do you have downspouts connected to the sewer system?
- Is there a lawn or landscaped area where the water can be directed away from your house?

If you answered **YES** to all three of these questions, apply for a free home assessment at: [dcwater.com/draintherain](http://dcwater.com/draintherain)

If you would like other green infrastructure such as rain gardens, green roofs, and pervious pavers or if you are not currently eligible for DC Water's downspout disconnection program, the District's Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) RiverSmart Program may have options for you. Visit [doee.dc.gov/riversmart](http://doee.dc.gov/riversmart) to learn about their programs for green infrastructure.



#### CONTACT INFO

[dcwater.com/draintherain](http://dcwater.com/draintherain)  
[draintherain@dcwater.com](mailto:draintherain@dcwater.com)

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301-579-3105 ext. 703

**DC Water Office of Marketing and Communications** 202-787-2200

#### PROJECT AT A GLANCE

##### COMING TO YOU!



DC Water's contractor, Rock Creek Conservancy, will be visiting residents in the project area beginning in March 2021.

##### PROJECT IN BRIEF

- Disconnections will occur within the Rock Creek sewershed
- Will slow untreated storm runoff before entering Rock Creek

##### FREE BARREL!

- Participants will be eligible for a free EarthMinded RainStation 50 Gallon Rain Barrel
- Disconnecting to a rain barrel can help you save money on water bills by reducing water usage



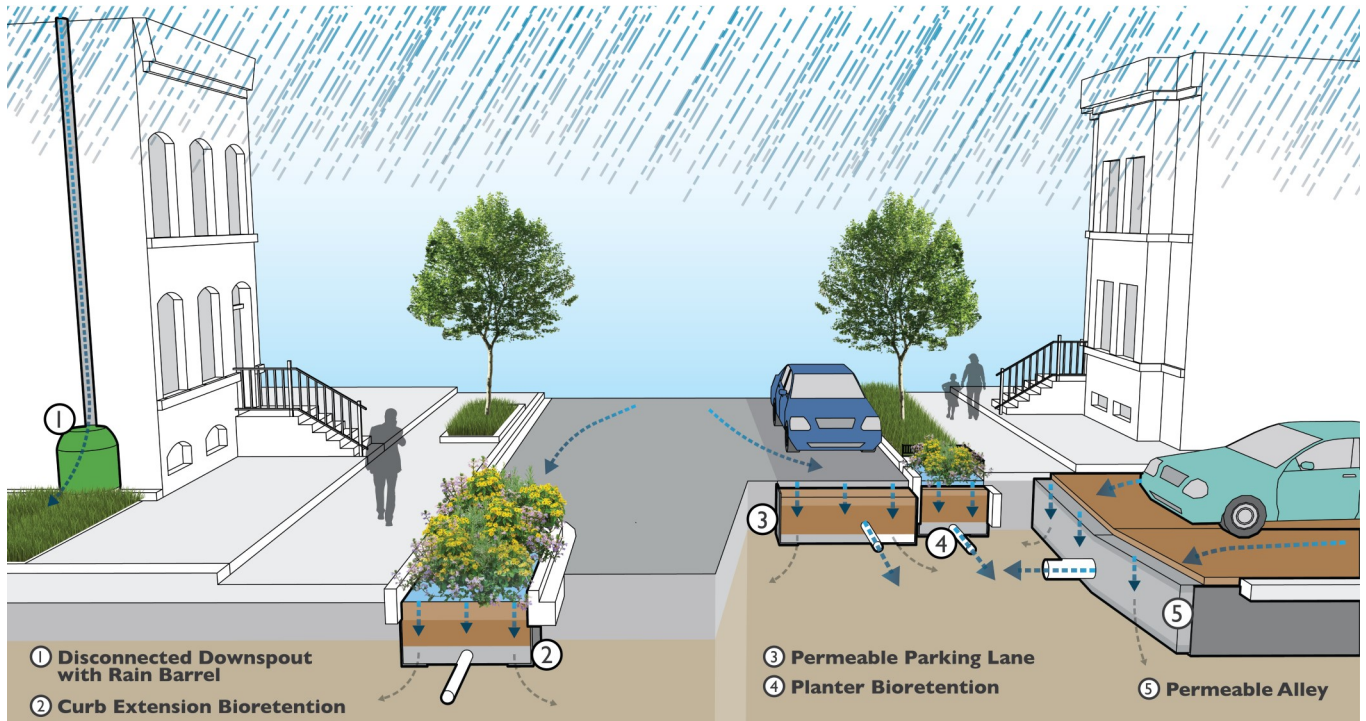
##### EARN A GIFT CARD!

**BONUS!** Residents who participate can earn a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant when they refer a neighbor who successfully enrolls!



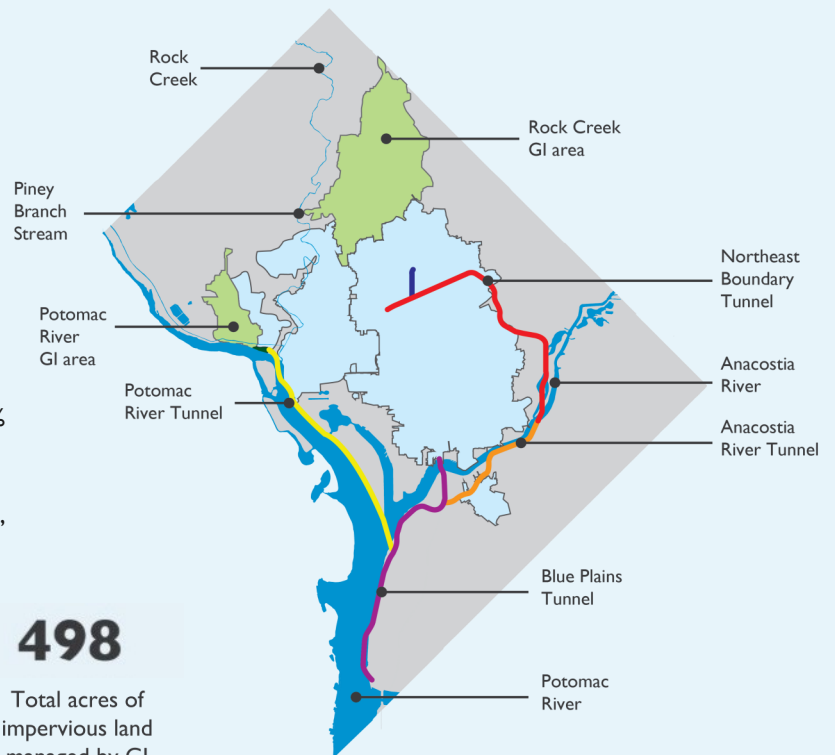
## WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI)** practices manage stormwater by taking advantage of the earth's natural processes. These include allowing water to infiltrate into the soil, evaporate into the air, or for plants to use the water and transpire it as vapor. These practices can slow down, clean, and, in some cases, reduce stormwater runoff prior to it entering the combined sewer system.



**THE DC CLEAN RIVERS PROJECT (DCCR)** is DC Water's massive infrastructure program to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the District's waterways — the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and Rock Creek. It includes green infrastructure and more than 18 miles of tunnels that are larger than the Metro tunnels and are constructed more than 100 feet below the ground. The tunnels are designed to capture CSOs during heavy rain events and transport the flows to the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment.

With the DC Clean Rivers Project, DC Water will improve our waterways by reducing CSO volume system-wide by 96% in the average year and by 98% to the Anacostia River alone. DC Clean Rivers Project will also provide flood relief to neighborhoods in the Northeast Boundary section of the city, such as Bloomingdale, LeDroit Park, Trinidad and Ivy City.



**96%**

Reduction of system-wide CSO volume

**98%**

Reduction of CSO volume to the Anacostia

**18**

Linear miles of tunnels, over 100 ft below the ground

**498**

Total acres of impervious land managed by GI

### General Contact Info:

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