

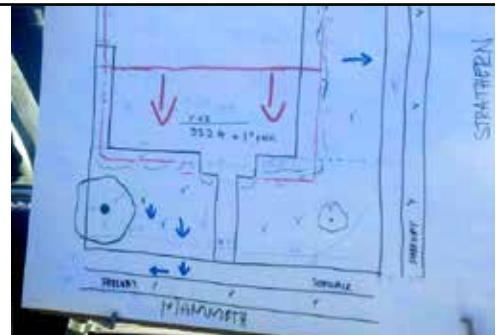
Every year millions of acre-feet of water run off and accumulate pollutants on the way to the ocean: water that is an increasingly limited and critical resource in Los Angeles County. WaterLA is a platform for collaboration between non-profit, public, and private groups to develop publicly accessible strategies to capture, conserve, and reuse this water. With over half the urban area occupied by residential property, engaging and empowering residents to participate in managing our resources is essential for meeting growing and shifting resource challenges.

Through a concept of urban acupuncture, strategic locations for projects have been targeted to clear the way for water to flow more effectively through our communities and into the ground. Workshops help residents to better understand the land and build our interconnected communities. The six key strategies include: rain barrels, rain gardens, parkway retrofits for water capture, greywater, infiltration trenches, and breaking up impermeable paving. Guidelines and tools developed through this partnership continue to be improved through expert feedback and public outreach.

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## SITE ASSESSMENT

A site assessment is the foundation for determining the best ways for you to capture, conserve and reuse water on your property. Completing an inventory of your property and analyzing your findings will give you a better idea of how much water you use outside your home compared to how much you use inside, and how much water flows off your property when it rains. This will help you identify areas of waste and opportunity. The first steps are to draw a plan of your property, all of the relevant features, and then to decide which strategies work best for you.



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## RAIN BARRELS/ CISTERNS

Rain barrels, tanks, and cisterns are containers that can capture rainwater runoff from rooftops for later use. Stored water may be used for irrigation of landscaped areas, and other uses for untreated water. Any water that overflows from rain storage containers is also slowed, providing more opportunity for water to sink into soil before running off a property. Tanks and cisterns provide greater storage space than single barrels, and multiple barrels can be connected or "daisy chained" to increase total capacity.



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## RAIN GARDENS/ RAIN GRADING

Flat landscapes are missed opportunities for water capture. A rain garden is an area graded to capture rainwater runoff and landscaped with native or other climate-appropriate plants. This is a great strategy for capturing runoff from roofs and other impervious surfaces such as walkways and driveways. In grading for rainwater capture, basins and swales are low areas, and berms are high areas used to guide water in the landscape.



## PARKWAY RETROFITS

Parkways are the strip between the curb and sidewalk. Retrofitting parkways into vibrant rainwater infiltration space takes advantage of a resource that would otherwise flow straight out to the ocean. These areas can capture, conserve, and reuse water runoff from driveways, sidewalks, and even roads.

Parkway retrofits can incorporate curb cuts that intercept water from city streets. Healthy plants and soil help biologically treat pollutants before the water is either infiltrated or returned to the street. Captured water increases the groundwater supply, and can support plants and trees that also help to filter air, provide habitat, beautify the landscape, and shade streets and walkways.



## PERMEABLE PAVING

During a storm, most of the runoff from a home is generated from the roof and other hard, impervious surfaces, such as patios and driveways. Because these areas don't allow water to soak into the soil, rainwater that falls there runs off quickly. Most often, this leads to water flowing to the street. Reducing the amount of area covered by concrete or pavement reduces the amount of rainwater that leaves a property, and creates a more interesting landscape.



## GREYWATER

Gently-used water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, and laundry accounts for 50% to 80% of a typical family's wastewater, adding up to tens of thousands of gallons per year. Rather than throwing this water away, it can be used to water the plants and trees in the yard – even in times of drought. Sending water that is clean enough for irrigation down the sewer system is not sensible, and reusing this resource is one of many ways to conserve drinking water supplies and reduce flows to our wastewater system.



## INFILTRATION TRENCHES

Infiltration trenches are designed to create void space for capturing rainwater that runs off impervious areas. Water enters the trench and soaks down into the ground. These are simple, low-cost systems that work well where water capture space is limited.

