Catching the Rain!
Roman Cistern - Istanbul, Turkey
rainwater harvesting & storage
How does a rain garden work?

**Gutters & Down Spouts**
Assist with directing rain water from your roof to your rain garden.

**Deep Roots**
Plants with a deep root system encourage infiltration and help absorb nutrients.

**Berm**
A berm holds water in the garden during heavy rains.

**Native Plants**
Native plants are adapted to local conditions and are easy to maintain once established. Plus, they attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators.
residential rain garden
(keep 10 feet away from most structures)

- native plants absorb runoff and pollutants while attracting songbirds and butterflies
- root zone aids in nutrient uptake, microbial activity, and infiltration
- gravel bed (if needed)
- ponding zone allows pollutants to settle and organic matter to accumulate
- prepared soil mixture (if needed):
  - 50-60% sand
  - 20-30% compost
  - 20-30% topsoil
- rock/vegetated swale or pipe
- overflow structure (if needed)
- perforated pipe to outlet (if needed)
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