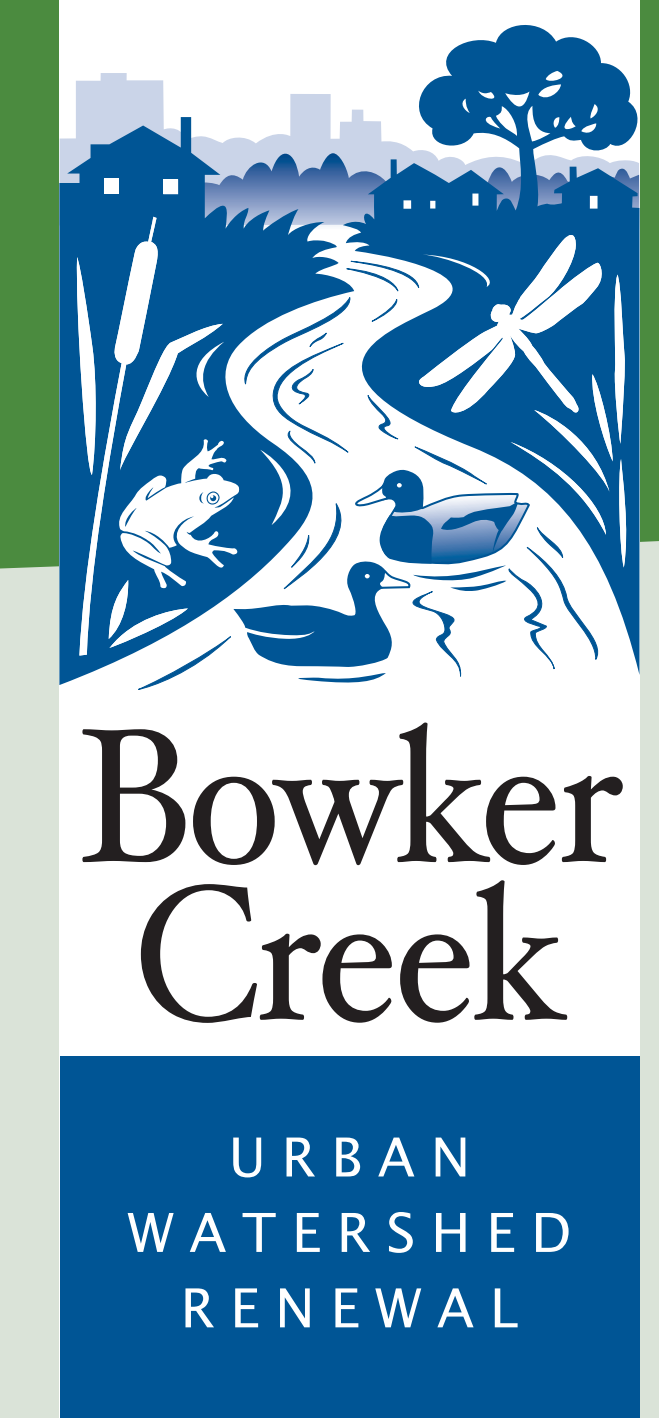


Bowker Creek flows through an urban watershed from its headwaters at the University of Victoria, along Shelbourne Street in Saanich, past Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, to the ocean at Oak Bay.

# Rainwater Rewards in the City of Victoria



The City of Victoria is a partner in the BCI and works to improve the health of the creek through a number of different measures:

- Ongoing capital improvements to the stormwater system to reduce cross connections with the sanitary sewer system.
- A stormwater quality bylaw that prohibits discharging substances that are harmful to the stormwater system and waterways.
- Adoption of a Stormwater Utility and creation of an incentive program called Rainwater Rewards for green stormwater infrastructure. The City offers credits and rebates to encourage property owners to install rain gardens, permeable pavement, bioswales, green roofs, cisterns and more to encourage on-site rainwater management. These measures slow and clean runoff before it enters the stormwater system and Bowker Creek.
- Incorporation of rain gardens into City projects in several areas adjacent to Bowker Creek. The rain gardens here on both sides of Trent Street and along Hillside Avenue all help protect the creek.
- The City incorporates green stormwater infrastructure on public lands wherever feasible. Benefits include helping to manage the anticipated increase in flows from changes in rainfall patterns expected due to climate change, and improving stormwater quality.

### For more information

- Bowker Creek Initiative: [info@bowkercreekinitiative.ca](mailto:info@bowkercreekinitiative.ca)
- City of Victoria Parks: [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca)

## What is the BCI?

The Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) is a partnership among the Capital Regional District, the District of Saanich, the City of Victoria, the District of Oak Bay, institutions, businesses and community groups.

To restore Bowker Creek, the BCI is working to reduce pollution and flooding, connect greenways and restore natural areas in the watershed.

The watershed management goals of the BCI are:

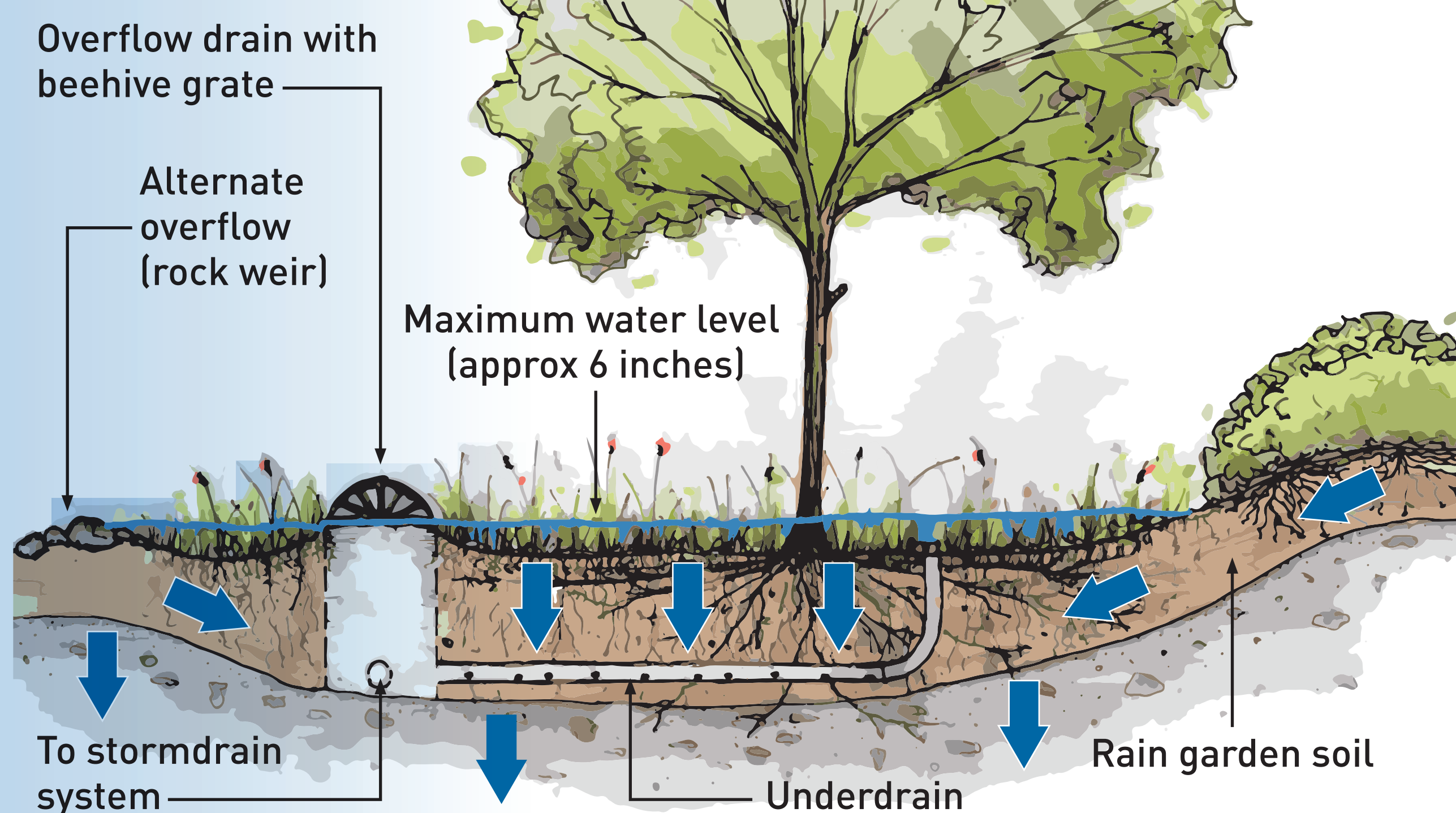
- 1 Take responsibility for actions that affect the watershed
- 2 Manage creek flows effectively
- 3 Improve and expand public areas, natural areas, and biodiversity in the watershed
- 4 Achieve and maintain acceptable water quality in the watershed

## Bowker Creek Watershed

- 1,028 hectares in area
- Home to approximately 30,000 people
- 56% of the watershed is impervious
- Bowker Creek is 9.4 kilometres long, with a 1.4 kilometres tributary at Cedar Hill Park
- 60% of the original creek is piped underground

A watershed is the land that drains surface and groundwater to a common waterway such as a creek, lake or ocean. In an urban watershed, impervious surfaces such as buildings, roads and parking lots block water from soaking into the soil. When it rains, the water collects pollutants as it quickly flows into underground stormdrains leading to creeks or shorelines. This can cause flooding, streambank erosion, water pollution and habitat loss.

### Rain Garden



Green stormwater infrastructure includes rainwater and stormwater management practices that mimic the natural water cycle. Rainwater is managed where it falls, cleaning and slowing flows while helping to protect stormwater infrastructure and local waterways. Green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales, street trees and permeable pavement are all part of green infrastructure. Image: Murdoch de Greeff Inc

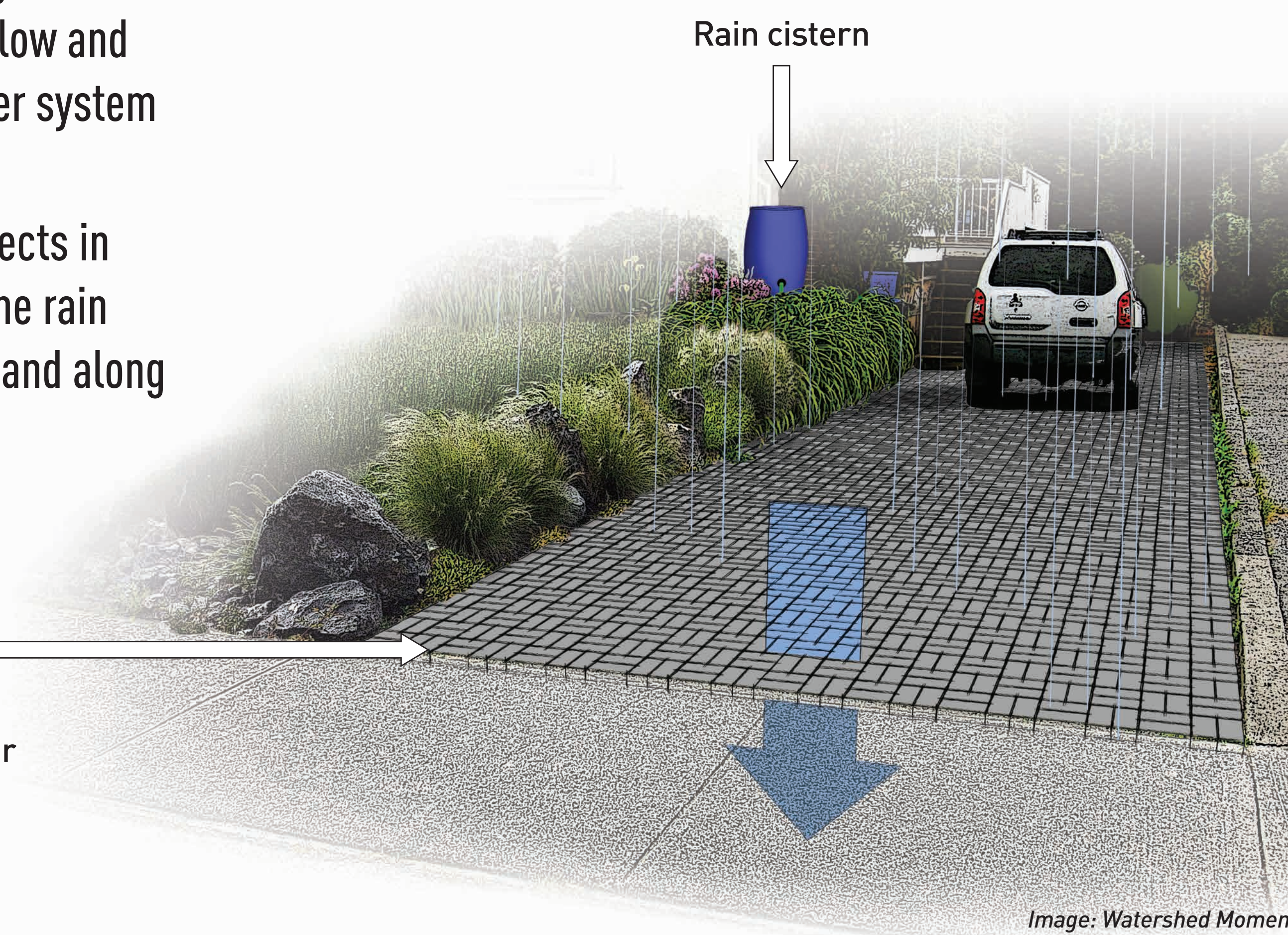


Image: Watershed Moment



Rain garden in wet and dry conditions. Image: City of Victoria

## The Bowker Creek Blueprint

Improving the watershed will take time. The Blueprint is the 100-year action plan that guides this work.

Find out more about Bowker Creek at: [bowkercreekinitiative.ca](http://bowkercreekinitiative.ca)

