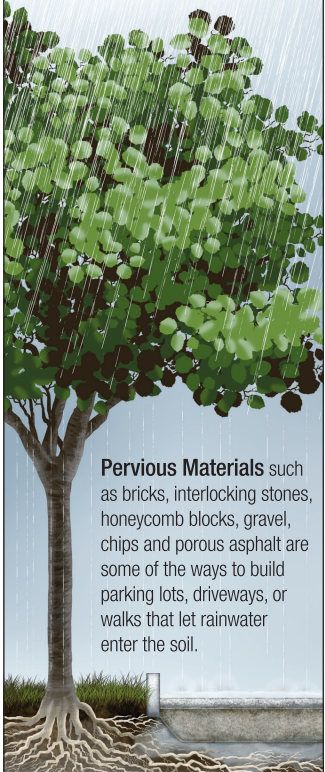


Leaves break the force of falling rain and reduce soil erosion. They retain 2 – 7 percent or more of the water produced by a short downpour, allowing it to slowly evaporate back into the atmosphere. As leaves decompose on the ground, they help build a spongy layer of topsoil that retains water and contributes to plant growth.



Pervious Materials such as bricks, interlocking stones, honeycomb blocks, gravel, chips and porous asphalt are some of the ways to build parking lots, driveways, or walks that let rainwater enter the soil.

Tree Roots bind the soil and guard against erosion. They also take up quantities of water that would otherwise be added to runoff.

Illustrations by Karina L. Helm



TREE CITY USA®

Abundant Trees

- 1 Well-Landscaped Parking Lots** can be designed to slow storm runoff and beautify the community. They cool parked cars, reducing evaporated gasoline that contributes to air-polluting ozone. Tree shade also adds longevity to paved surfaces.
- 2 Tree-lined Streets** retain large volumes of rainfall, reducing and cleansing runoff. They also increase property values, encourage shopping and business, reduce air pollution, calm traffic and lower noise levels.

- 3 Nature Explore Classrooms** at schools can be combined with nearby community gardens and natural areas to serve as neighborhood parks. Their unpaved surfaces increase rainwater retention as they provide nature-rich play and learning spaces for children.
- 4 Shaded Homes and Tree-filled Yards** make urban life more pleasant and provide practical benefits such as lower heating and air conditioning costs and increased re-sale values. The tree canopy is also a major contributor to stormwater runoff reduction.

- 5 Riparian Buffers** consisting of trees and shrubs along waterways slow flood waters, reduce erosion, cool the water for fish, and filter harmful runoff from adjoining land.
- 6 Rain Gardens** hold water onsite, reducing wasteful runoff and providing moisture for tree roots and flower beds. They also filter chemicals draining from walks, driveways and streets.

- 7 Manageable Stormwater Runoff** results from abundant trees, multi-use catch basins and rain gardens, reduced impervious surfaces, and increased ground vegetation. The benefits are lower costs and a more livable, sustainable environment.