

Swales are Swell and So Are Rain Gardens

Duration
6:59(cc)

STEAM Curriculum Lesson Extension:
Get Your Deposit Back, Grade 7

Produced by [California State Water Resources Control Board](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

Goal

Students will learn how the use of swales and rain gardens that homeowners create on their property can have a positive impact on their watershed.

Overview

Students will see how agencies, NGO's, and residents can work together to create landscapes that hinders the runoff of soil and pollution into storm drains that inevitably ends up in rivers, streams and other larger bodies of water.

Connections to EarthX STEAM Curriculum Lesson: *Get Your Deposit Back*

Students learn in the STEAM lesson how runoff, deposition and erosion can harm a watershed and look into ways to solve some of these issues. The video looks in-depth into the use of swales and rain gardens as ways to keep polluted water out of storm drains that feed into our waterways.

Guiding Questions

- If swales and rain gardens were superheroes, what would be their name? What super powers would they have? Why do you think this?
- The main title to this series of videos is, "Slow the Flow." How do plants help accomplish this?
- Many homeowners may find it difficult to change the way they think about how they landscape their lawns. Can you give them advice that helped you when you had to change a habit or a way of doing something?

Vocabulary

- Swales
- Rain Garden
- Asphalt
- Runoff
- Storm Drain
- Amended soil
- Infiltration capacity
- Hydrology
- Watershed
- Smart controller
- Trip irrigation
- Porous paver
- Bioswale
- Infiltration gallery

Standards

Next Generation Science

- 5-ESS3-1
- MS-LS2-5

TEKS Science Objectives

- 5.b.9C
- 7.b.8C