Green Infrastructure ("GI") is an approach to stormwater management that restores or mimics the natural water cycle. It utilizes natural hydrologic processes to capture, purify, store and infiltrate stormwater back into the ground.

Water Quality

- ☔ As stormwater travels along hard, impervious surfaces, it picks up pollutants and litter along the way.

- 🐟 Storm drains then release this polluted stormwater into receiving waters, which creates impaired water bodies and damages ecosystems.
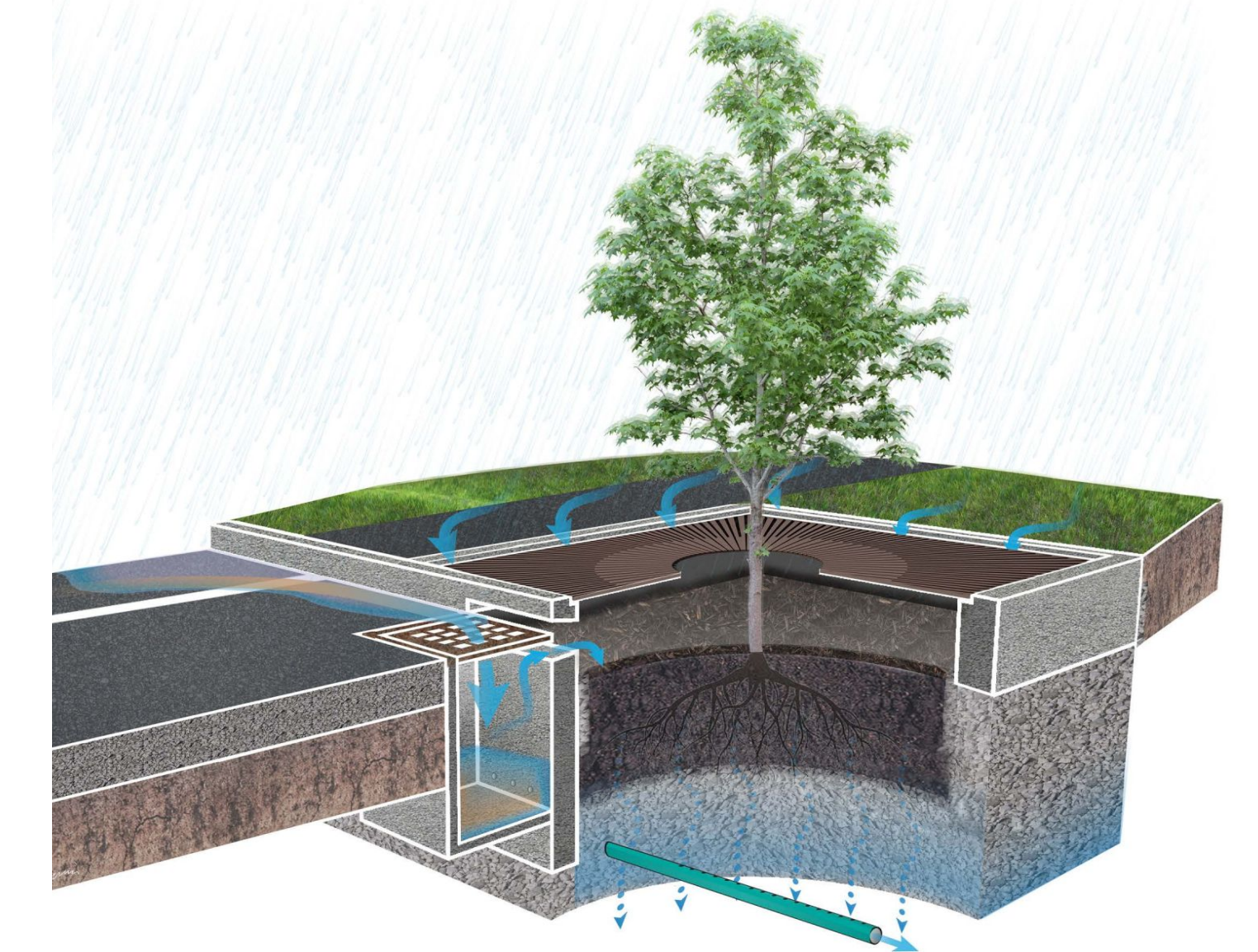
Water Quantity

- 🌊 During large storm events, the storm drain system can become overwhelmed and outfalls can be blocked by storm surge and higher than normal tides, resulting in stormwater flooding.
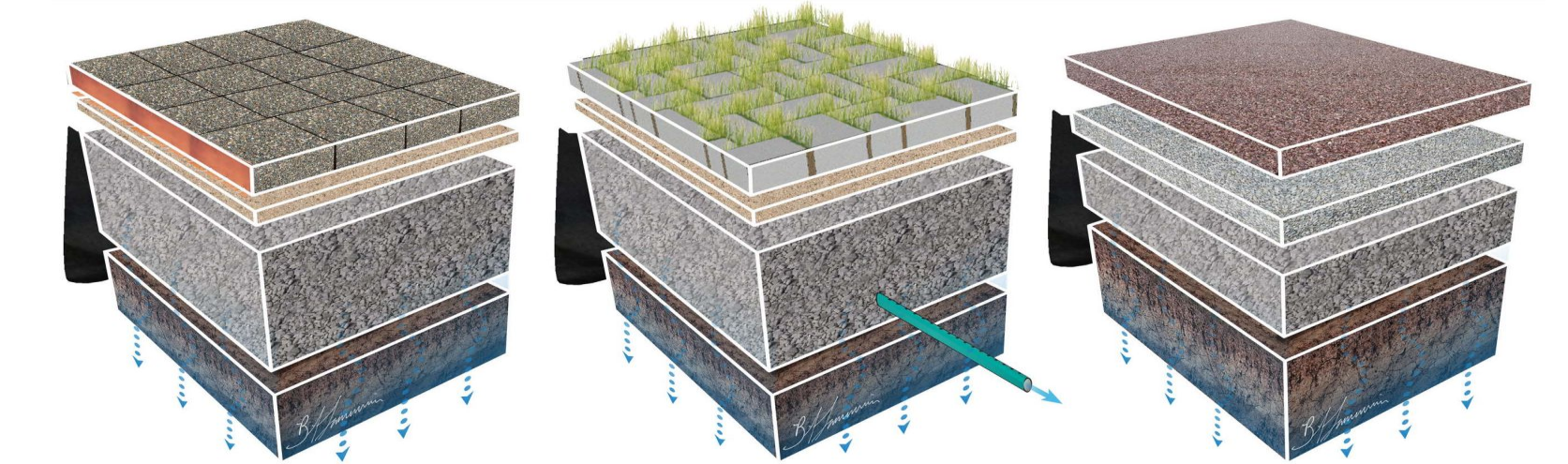
Columbia Road
Green Infrastructure Toolkit

Right-of-Way Bioswale

Tree Pit

Rain Garden

Porous Paving Materials

Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Flood mitigation 🌊 / Water quality improvement 🐟

More biodiversity / pollinator habitat 🐝

Increased urban green space / tree canopy 🌳

Reduced energy usage ⚡

Reduced urban heat island effect ☀️

Improved Environmental Justice ⚖️ (*air quality, access to nature, food security*)

Slower streets / improved pedestrian & cyclist safety 🚴

Opportunities for environmental education 👩🏽‍🏫