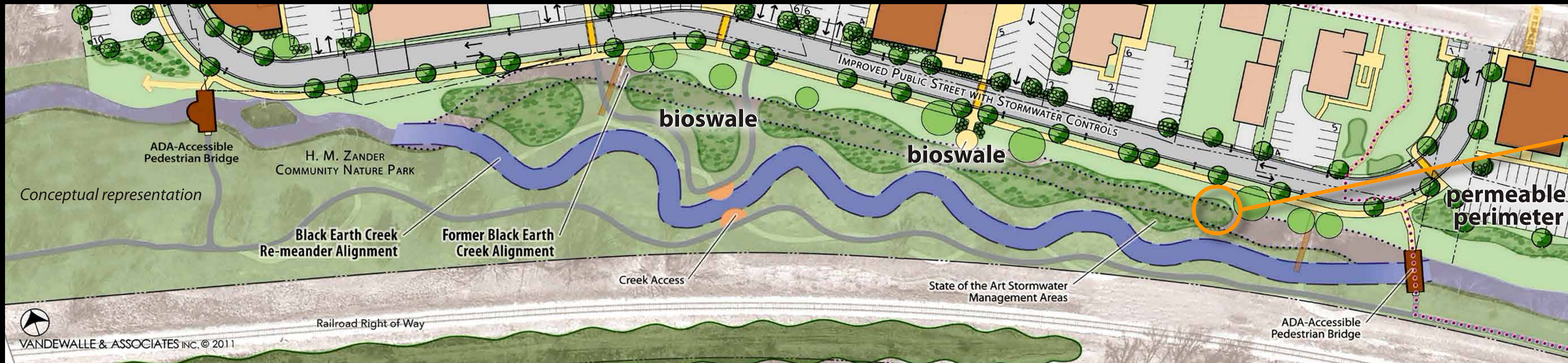


Green Infrastructure—vital for protection of Black Earth Creek



The Village of Cross Plains installed green infrastructure that will protect the water quality of Black Earth Creek which is vital to spawning trout.

Bioswales slow stormwater runoff.

Our actions on land impact our lakes and streams

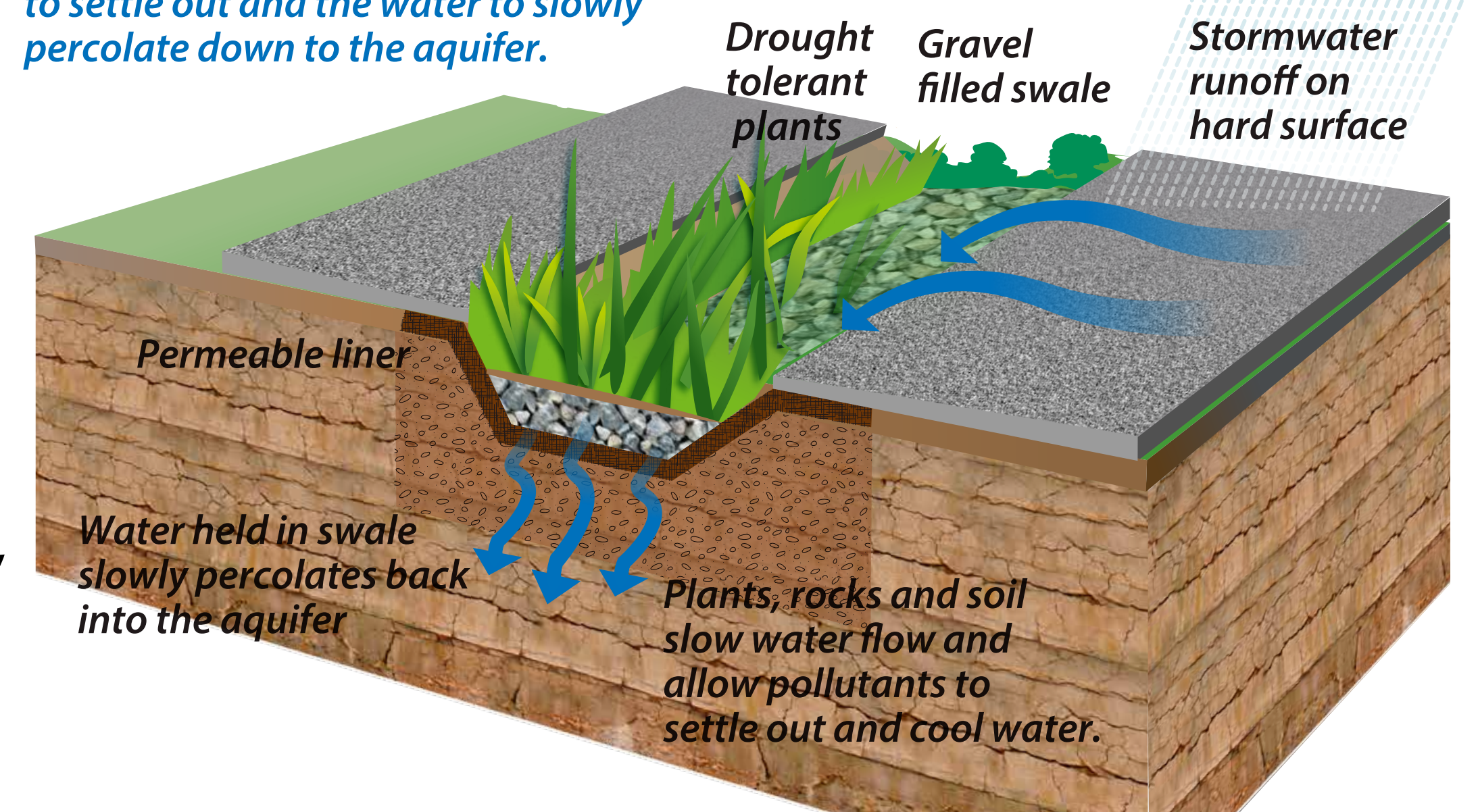
It's all connected! After a storm, rain can either slowly soak into the ground or it can run off. In natural areas, most of the rain that falls soaks into the ground replenishing groundwater sources and local surface waters. Development brings with it more hard, impervious surfaces such as pavement and rooftops and also more runoff. As rain runs off these hard surfaces it can warm and carries leaves, trash, soil, road salt and other pollutants along with it. Stormwater runoff washes into our storm drains and ditches, which eventually empty into local waters like Black Earth Creek. The Village of Cross Plains is taking actions to help reduce stormwater runoff and protect Black Earth Creek. These stormwater protections help maintain the trout fishery where trout spawn in the fall and help ensure the stream's designation as an Outstanding Water Resource is maintained.

Green infrastructure to protect creek

The stormwater best management practices you see on the map above were installed to collect runoff from streets, sidewalks, and rooftops (impervious surfaces). This "green infrastructure" prevents this polluted runoff from directly reaching the stream and harming the water quality of Black Earth Creek. These stormwater best management practices are engineered to allow the stormwater to infiltrate back into the ground—cleansing and cooling the runoff so that it does not discharge directly into the stream.

How a bioswale works

The bioswales capture stormwater and slow down the flow, allowing pollutants to settle out and the water to slowly percolate down to the aquifer.



Permeable pavement



Retention basin



Urban tree canopy



Scan this code to learn more or go to the BECWA website. www.becwa.org

Actions you can take to help...

- Redirect downspouts towards gardens and grasses and away from pavement so there is less flow into storm sewers.
- Install a rain barrel to capture roof runoff that can be used to water plants and lawn.
- Incorporate native plants in your landscaping. Natives have deep root systems that help promote infiltration.
- Volunteer your time to protect and improve Black Earth Creek or other local waterways.

Encourage your community to...

- Construct bioswales (grass waterways) along roads and parking lots.
- Construct retention basins to control excess runoff.
- Plant rain gardens to capture runoff from rooftops and parking lots.
- Install permeable pavement to allow infiltration.
- Create green parking lots to help water infiltrate and control sediment runoff.
- Increase urban tree canopy to reduce raindrop impacts.

Sign created by Black Earth Creek Watershed Association and Dane County UW Extension

