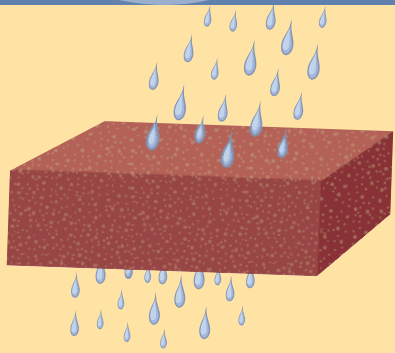


3

Slow the Flow of Rainwater



Question:

Other pervious surfaces are on display in this garden. How many can you identify?

Answer: The other surfaces are decomposed granite and recycled sidewalk concrete in the "patio" areas, and sandstone set in sand in the pathway at Nectar Garden.

The pavers in this pathway allow rainwater to seep into the soil.

Pervious pavers allow rainfall to pass through and soak into the ground. Most traditional paved surfaces, on the other hand, are impervious — they repel water and create runoff that flows across roads, rooftops, and parking areas where it can pick up motor oil, metals, pesticides, and litter. This polluted runoff flows into storm drains and out to creeks and the San Francisco Bay — without any filtering or treatment. During storms, the runoff can also reach a high velocity, causing erosion or flooding.

There is a solution: Under your feet are pervious pavers that are made to be highly permeable. About one inch of water per hour can pass directly through these pavers, reducing the chances of polluted runoff reaching our creeks.

