

PENRITH



HEALTHY WATERWAYS

You can help reduce stormwater pollution by following these simple tips:

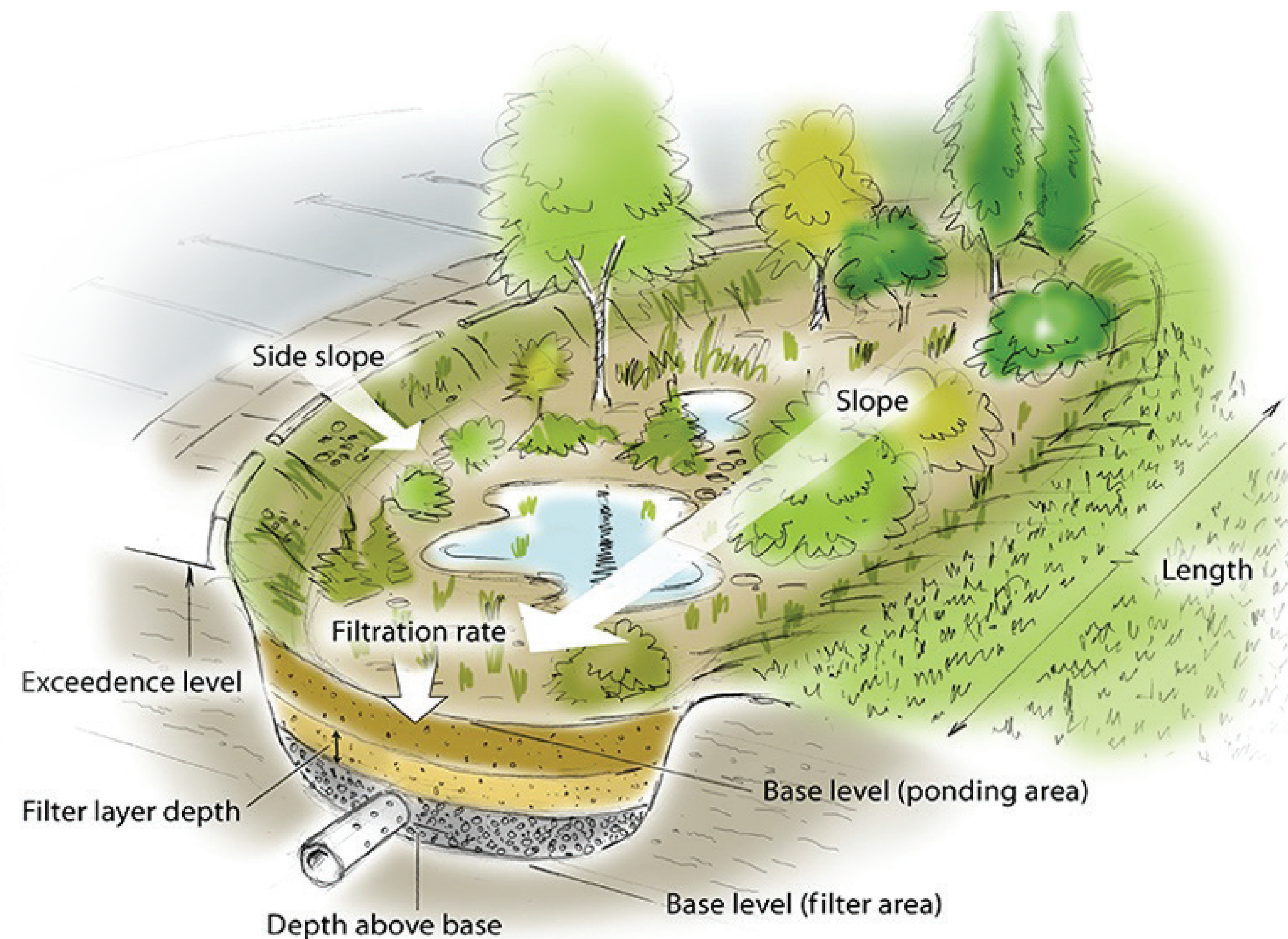
- ✓ Dispose of your litter and cigarette butts in the bin
- ✓ Clean up after your pets
- ✓ Don't put oil, paint or chemicals down the rain
- ✓ Avoid over-watering your gardens and lawn
- ✓ Apply fertilisers and pesticides in moderation and not if rain is forecast
- ✓ Wash your car on the grass instead of the street or driveway
- ✓ Pick up grass clippings and leaves and dispose in your green waste bin
- ✓ Keep your car serviced to prevent oils and grease accumulating on roads and driveways.

For further information visit penrith.city/waterway-health

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WATERWAYS
PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL

STORMWATER IMPACTS

When rain falls on vegetated areas such as bushland it is filtered by soil and plants, and soaks back into the ground. When rain falls on hard surfaces such as rooftops and roads it cannot soak into the ground and becomes stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff picks up pollution such as dirt, chemicals and litter, carrying them into stormwater drains and into waterways. These pollutants contains nutrients that can cause algal growth.



WHAT IS A BIORETENTION BASIN AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Bioretention basins are designed to remove a wide range of pollutants from stormwater runoff. When stormwater is redirected into the bioretention basin it ponds temporarily before being slowly filtered by native plants. As the stormwater seeps through the layers of soils, sand and gravel, the plants absorb nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Fine sediments and other pollutants are also captured. Bioretention basins also reduce the amount of stormwater that would otherwise wash pollutants into river and creeks.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do Bioretention basins create a pond?

No. Water will only pond for a few hours after rain. Using the correct soils and plants will allow it to filter and drain away quickly.

Do Bioretention basins act as breeding ground for mosquitoes?

No. The basins drain within a few hours of most storms. Any mosquito eggs will die before they have a chance to hatch.

Do Bioretention basins provide habitat for wildlife?

Yes. Basins include a mixture of trees, shrubs and grasses that provide habitat and food for a variety of birds, frogs and mammals.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Penrith Councils Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) systems and projects.

