



Water Sensitive Designs

small improvements, new ideas, concepts and sketch designs for stormwater filtration systems

waterbydesign



Water Sensitive Designs

small improvements,
new ideas, concepts
and sketch designs
for stormwater
filtration systems

Protect & Enhance Waterways



Infiltration



Flow Management



Water Quality



Habitat



Enhance Landscape Amenity



Community Interest



Visual Impact



Sense of Place



Landscape Amenity

Maximise Benefits to Community



Microclimate



Stormwater Reuse



Safety



Passive Recreation



Manage Capital & Lifecycle Costs



Resource Efficient



Space Efficient



Efficient Maintenance



Material Sustainability

By promoting infiltration throughout catchments and adjacent to creeks we can help restore the natural watercycle and lessen the impact on downstream waterways.



Infiltration

Tree Pit

application: road verges / footpaths

advantage:

- promotes infiltration
- stormwater treatment
- economical to build
- improve tree growth /shade

note: this can be modelled in MUSIC using a bioretention node with low hydraulic conductivity and no extended detention depth

idea (sourced or via): BCC & Matt Nolan EDAW



Infiltration



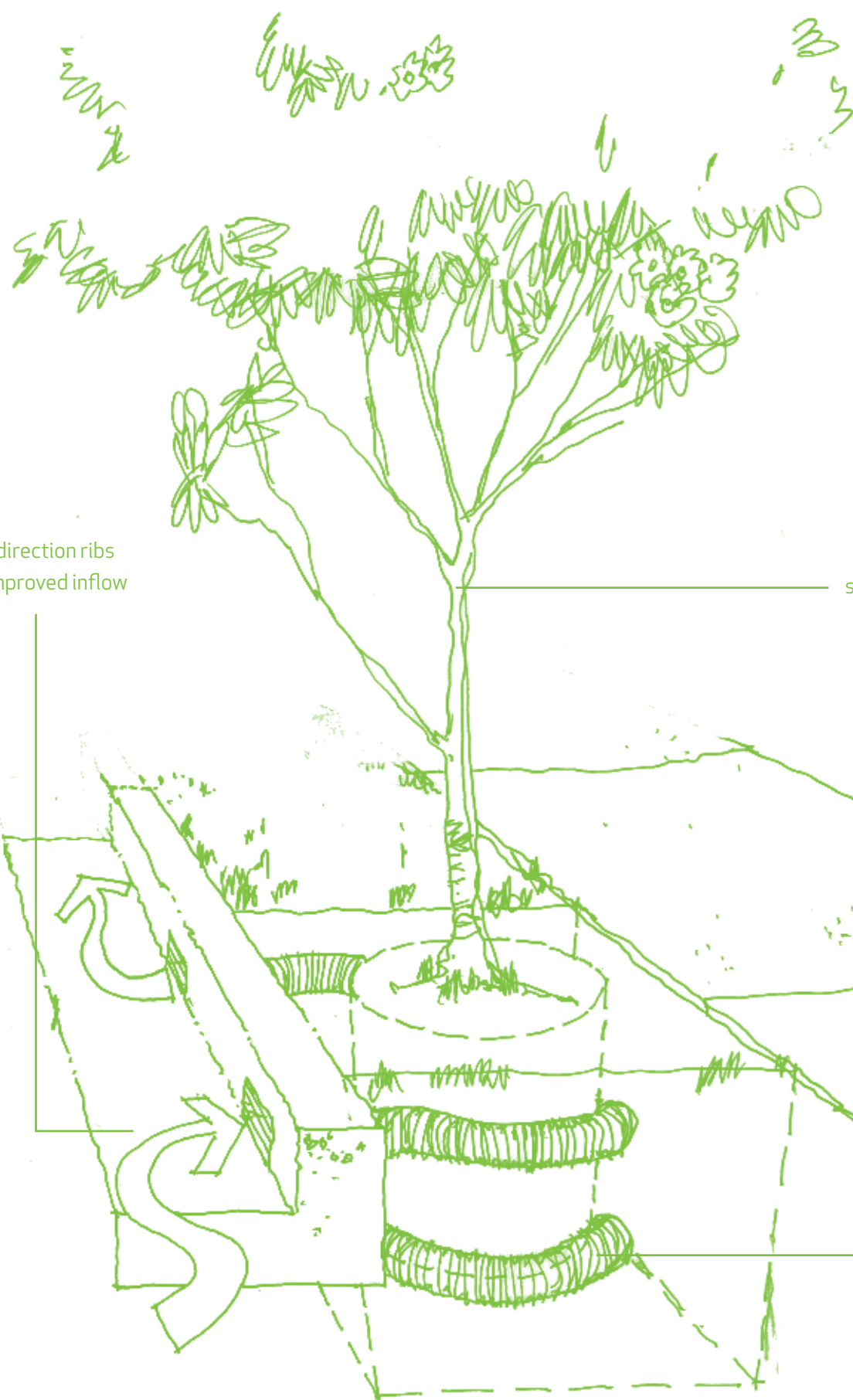
Water Quality

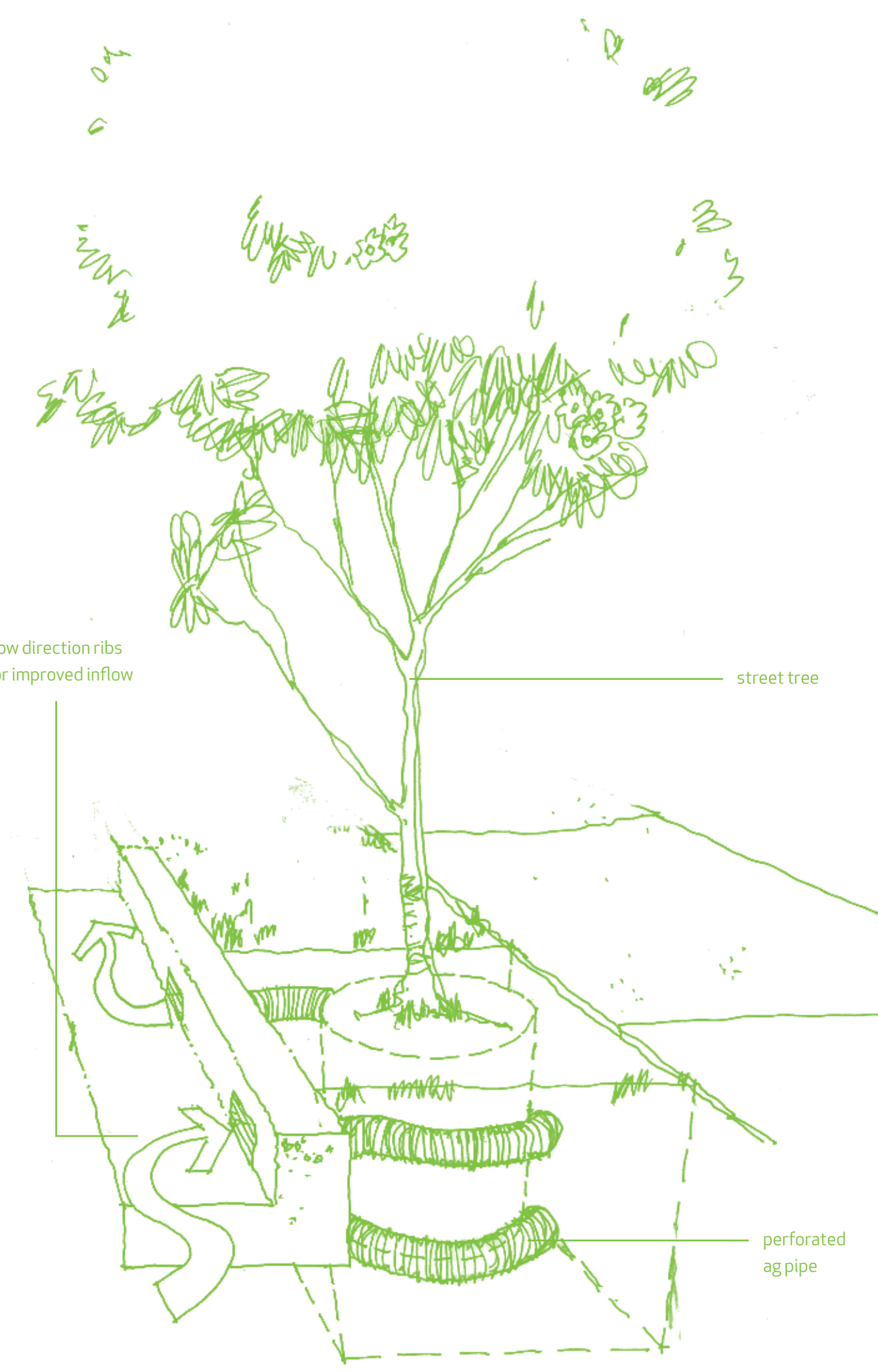


Resource Efficient



Microclimate





Infiltration Basin

application: stormwater outlets next to riparian zones

advantage:

- infiltration & sheet flow to riparian zone
- stormwater treatment
- lower cost
- shade
- hydrological benefit

note: hydrological benefit can be modelled in MUSIC by adding infiltration to a bioretention node

refer: Water by Design - Field Guide for suitable tree species in your local area

idea (sourced or via): BMTWBM & BCC



Infiltration



Water Quality



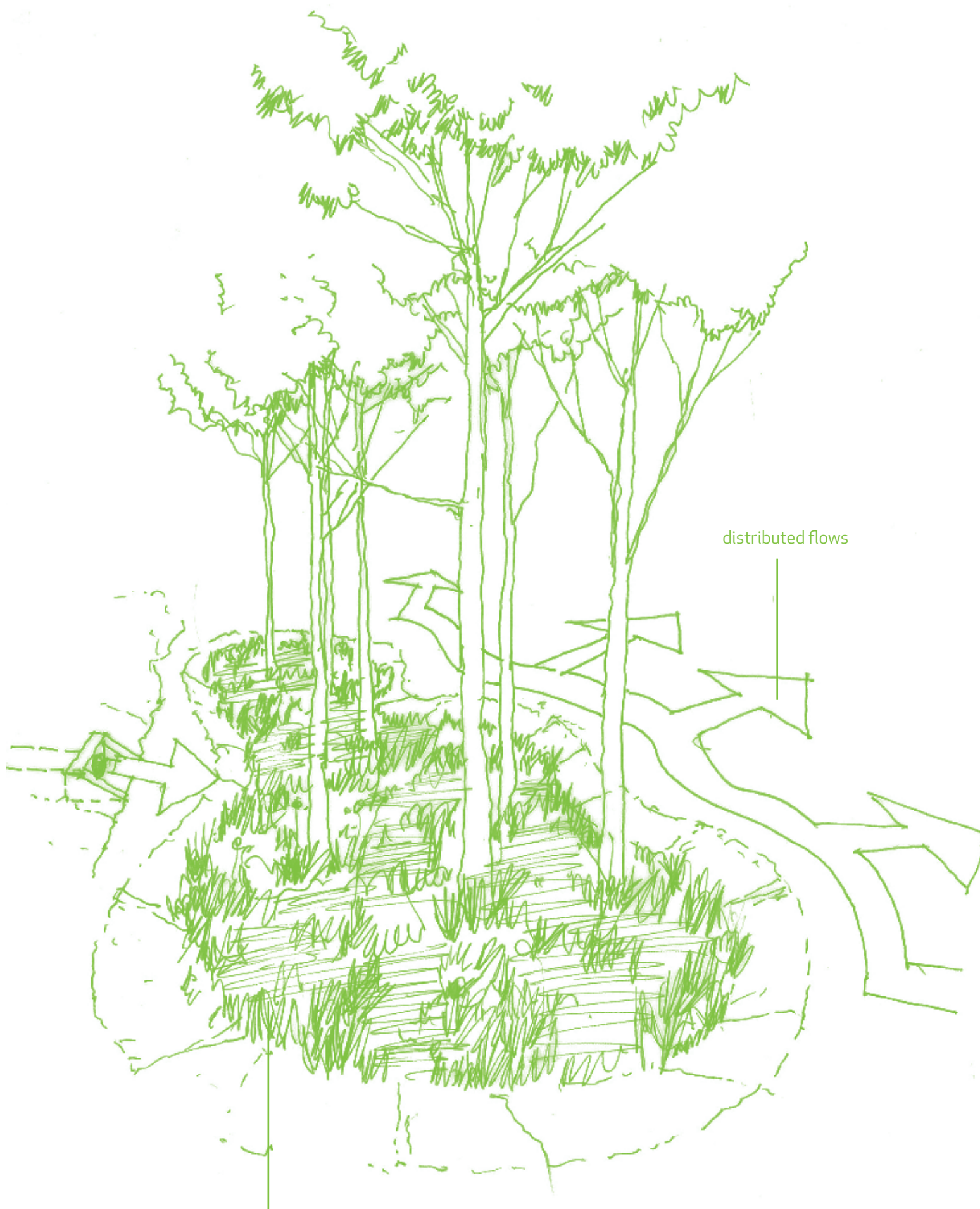
Resource Efficient



Microclimate



Flow Management



distributed flows

insitu sandy soil

Infiltration Swale

application: adjacent to riparian zones

advantage:

- promotes infiltration
- stormwater treatment
- hydrological benefit
- lower cost

note: hydrological benefit can be modelled in MUSIC by adding infiltration to a swale node



Infiltration



Water Quality



Resource Efficient



Flow Management



Coastal Bioretention

application: coastal bioretention systems on sand

advantage:

- maximise infiltration
- low cost
- minimise stormwater pipes

note: groundwater level / adjacent landuse and structures



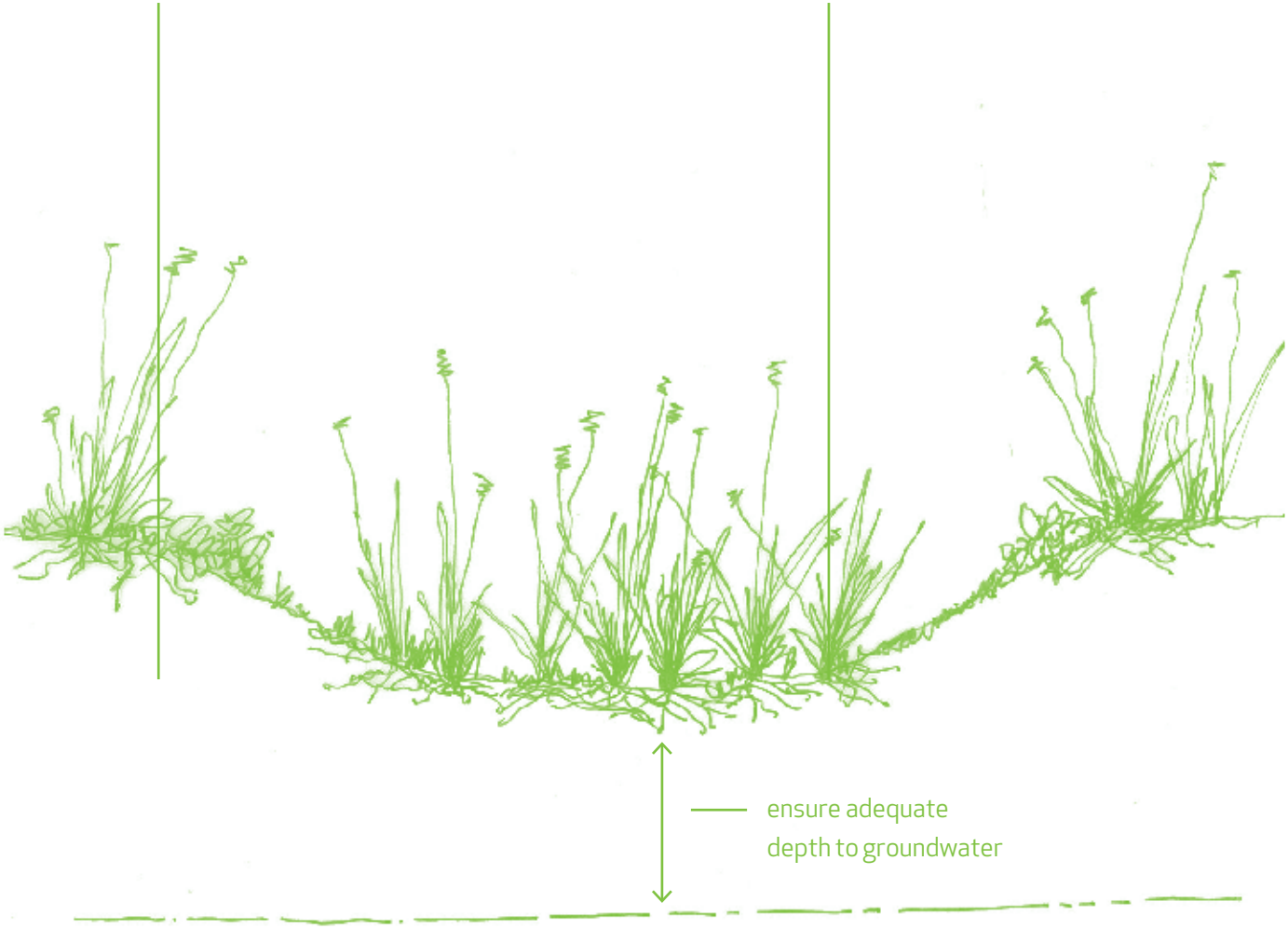
Infiltration



Resource Efficient

insitu sandy soil

endemic coastal vegetation



Unless regulated, the development and hardening of catchments can have detrimental impacts on local streams and creeks. It is important to try and avoid these impacts before repair work becomes necessary.

Flow management can be achieved by increasing permeable areas, promoting infiltration, stormwater harvesting and stormwater detention.



Flow Management

Lotscale Infiltration

application: residential lots

advantage:

- avoids hydrological impacts
- promote infiltration

note: consult geotech for infiltration near footings

refer: green roof design guidelines <http://www.growinggreenguide.org/>

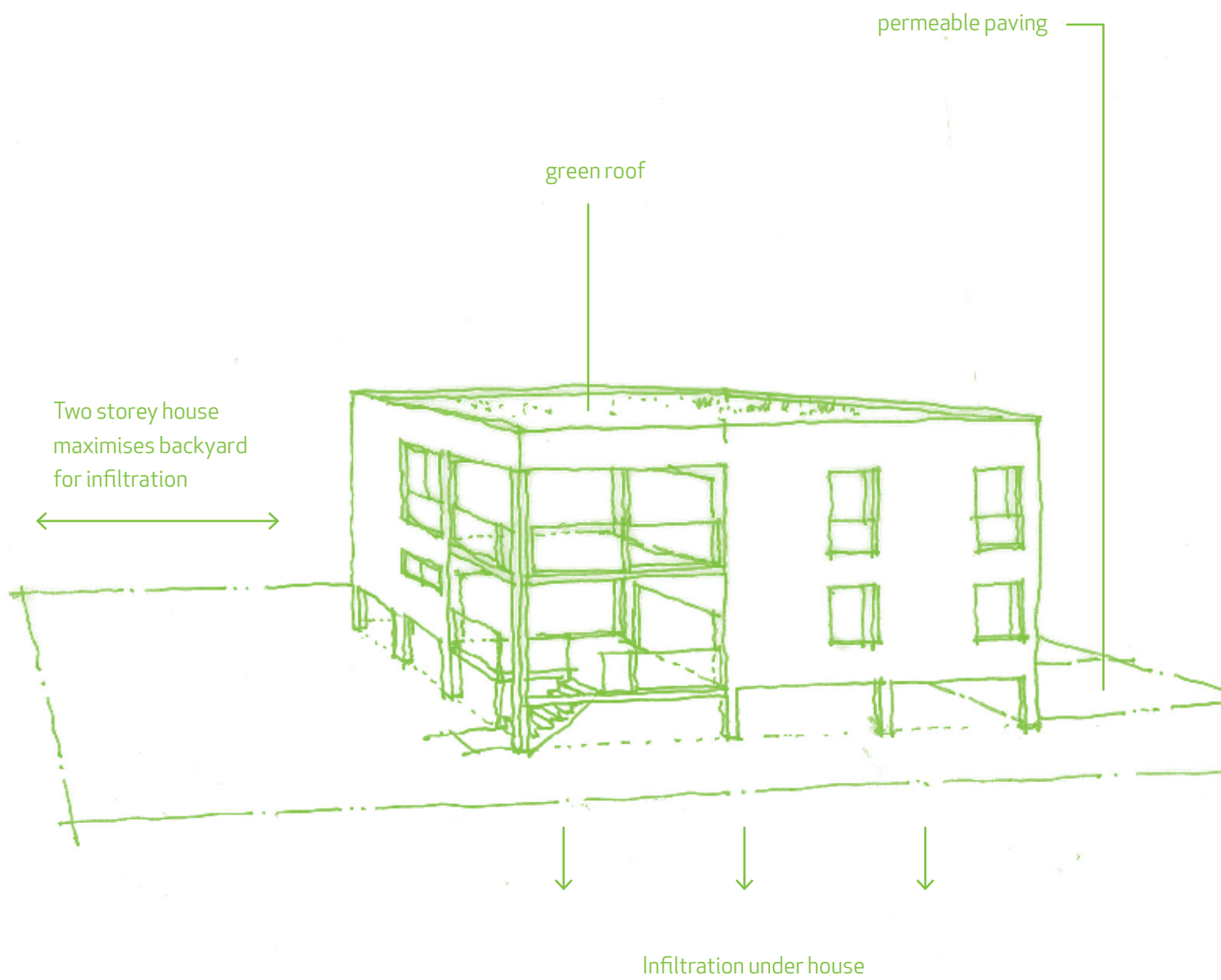
idea (sourced or via): Alan Hoban – Bligh Tanner



Flow Management



Infiltration



Infiltration Terrace

application: sites with sufficient space

advantage:

- flow management
- infiltration

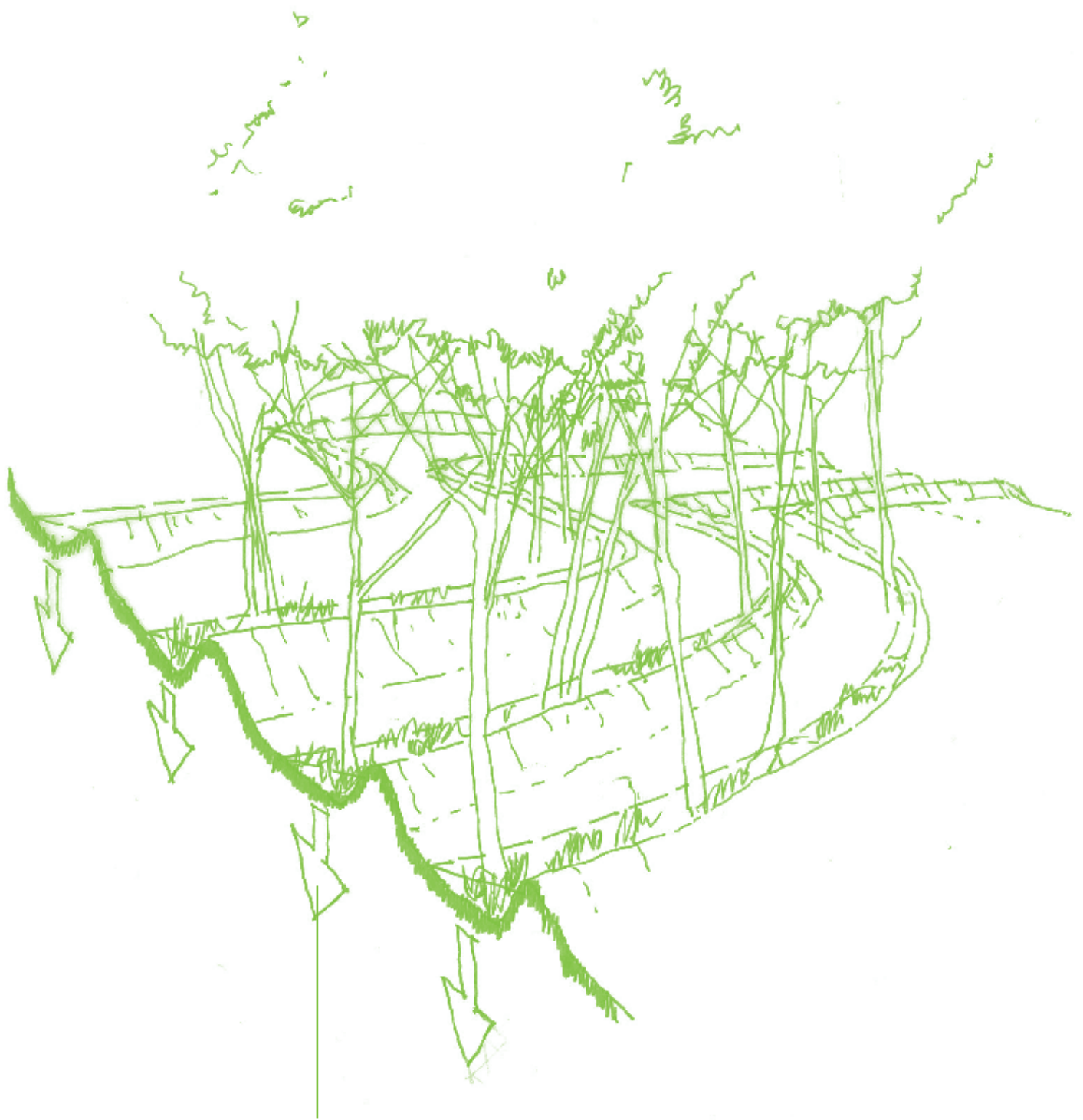
note: consider groundwater depth / adjacencies / insitu soil type
idea (sourced or via): Peter Breen - AECOM



Flow Management



Infiltration



Infiltration replenishes groundwater

Basin Outlet Control

application: bioretention systems with detention

advantage:

- hydrological benefit
- help achieve waterway stability objective
- single outlet pit

note: requires hydraulic design / note safety (depth) considerations



Flow Management



Resource Efficient

additional
flood storage

extended
detention

orifice for further
flow attenuation



Pollution threatens the health of our local waterways. An important function of any WSUD device is to capture and treat pollutants and improve water quality.



Water Quality

Floating Wetlands

application: retrofit to urban lakes and ponds with poor water quality

advantage:

- water quality treatment

note: specific maintenance requirements / potential low DO conditions beneath mats if no flow

idea (sourced or via): SPEL environmental and Redlands IndigiScapes Centre



Water Quality



pollutants removed
via root system

Dedicated Carwash Parking Bay

application: multiunit developments

advantage:

- capture pollutants at source
- minimise potable water use

note: check groundwater proximity if using infiltration methods

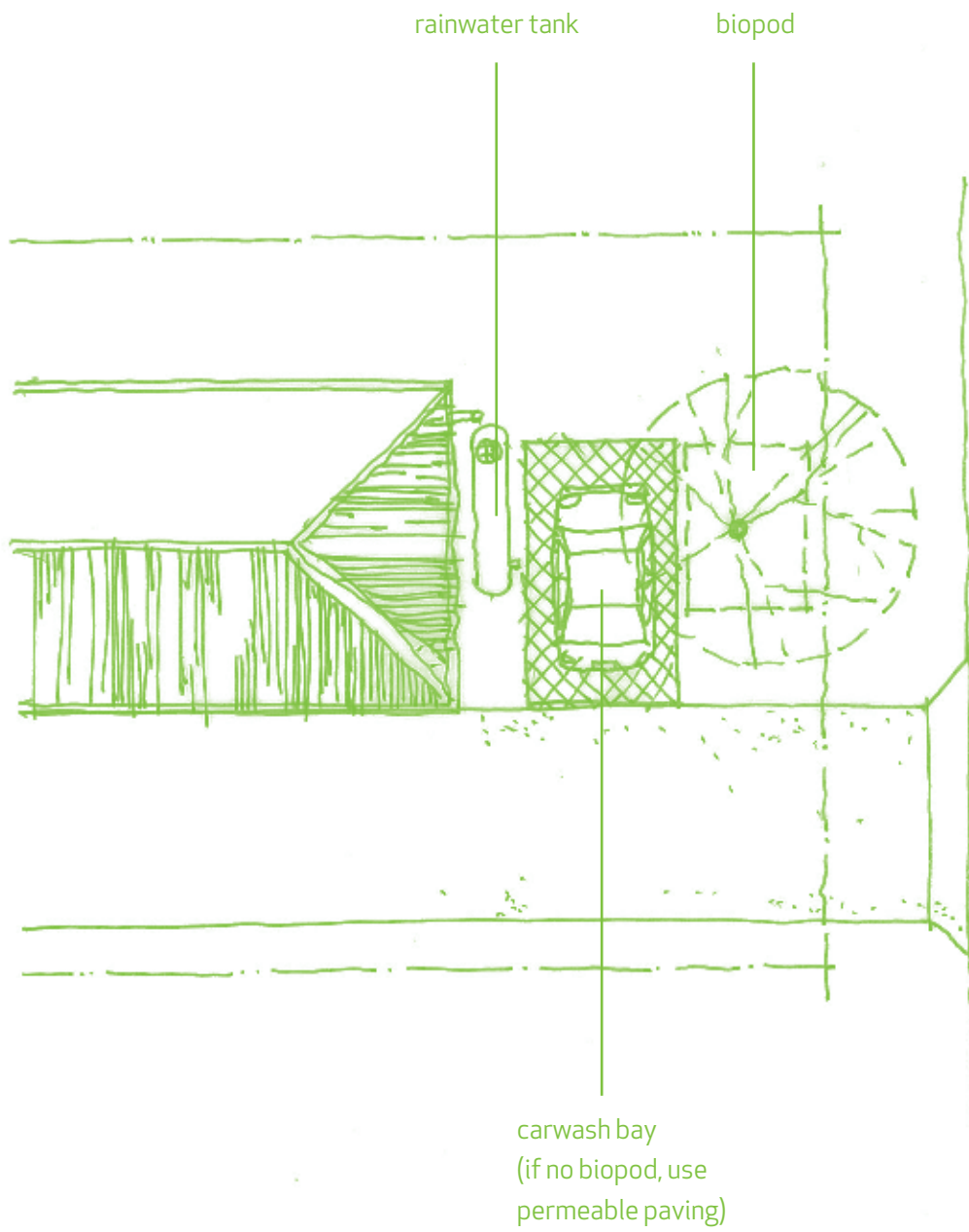
idea (sourced or via): Dylan Cain – CCE & Australian Carwash Association



Water Quality



Stormwater Reuse



Side Cast Weir

application: retrofit of WSUD into developed catchments

advantage:

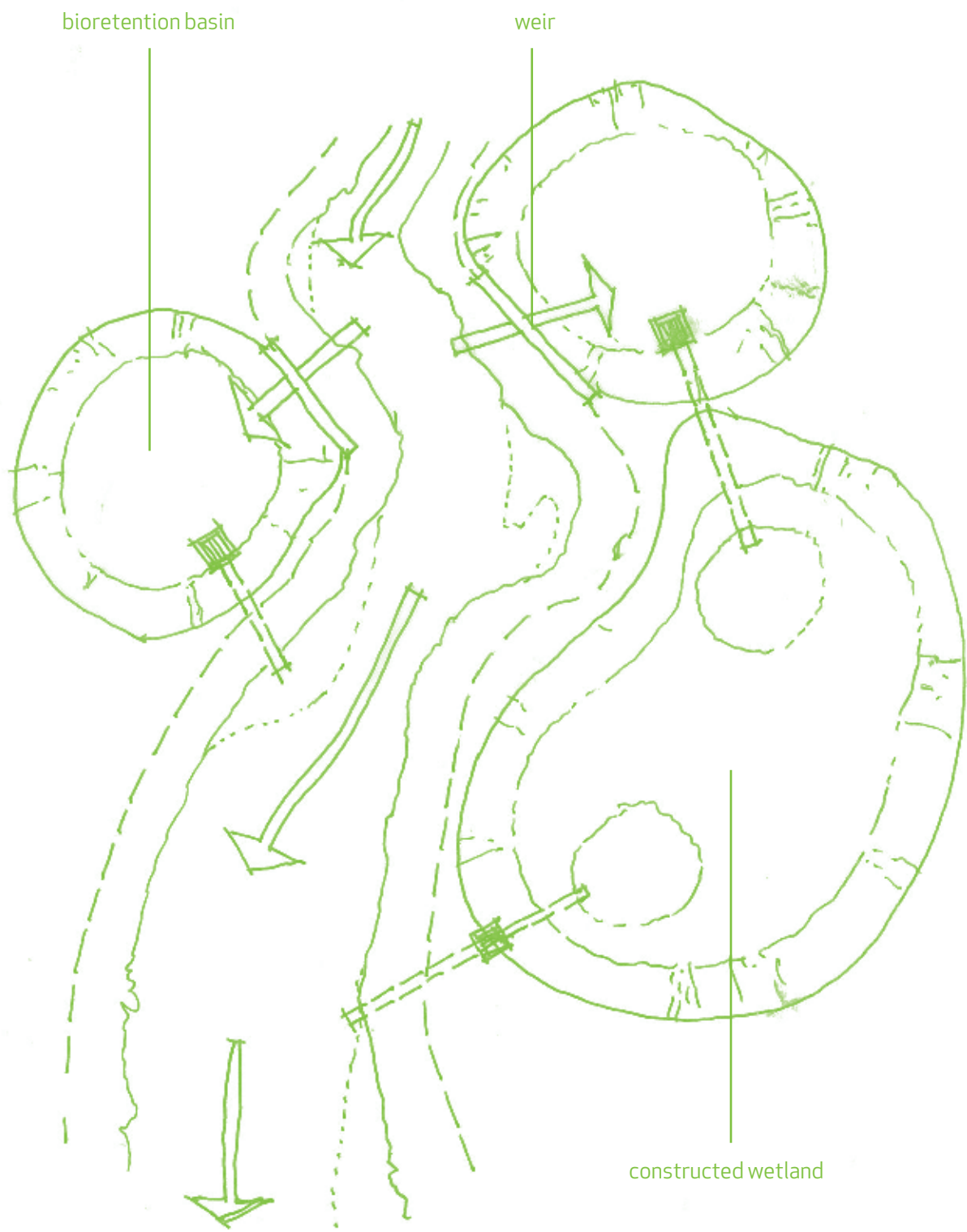
- improve water quality in creek and adjacent stream
- offline systems reduce the likelihood of high velocities within treatment systems

note: consider flooding issues / sediment loading and blinding issues

idea (sourced or via): Peter Breen and AECOM



Water Quality



It is important when designing stormwater treatment systems that we not to lose sight of the fundamental goal of habitat preservation. Habitat needs can be accommodated by:

- Conserving existing creeks
- Providing sufficient riparian buffer widths
- Assessing fauna needs
- Sourcing local plant stock
- Managing the interface between urban and riparian zones



Habitat

Habitat Logs

application: bioretention basins and constructed wetlands

advantage:

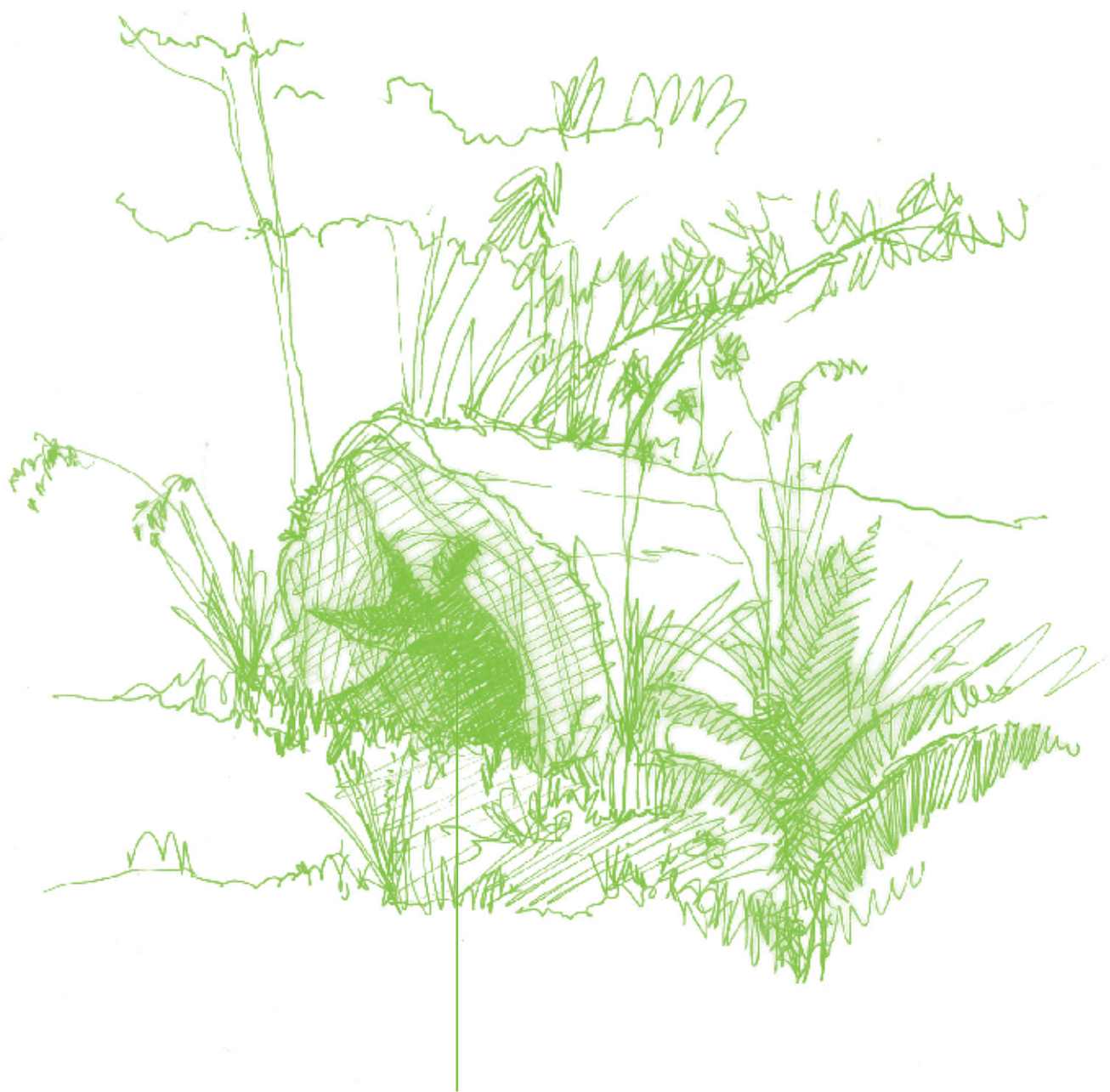
- provides habitat
- make use of any trees cleared for development

note: local fauna requirements

idea (sourced or via): Dean Challenor & Christoph Pester - EDAW



Habitat



hollows for fauna

Flow Spreader

application: basins outlets next to riparian zones

advantage:

- sheet flow to riparian zone
- promotes infiltration
- supplies water to more vegetation
- more treatment of stormwater

note: scour protection requirements



Habitat

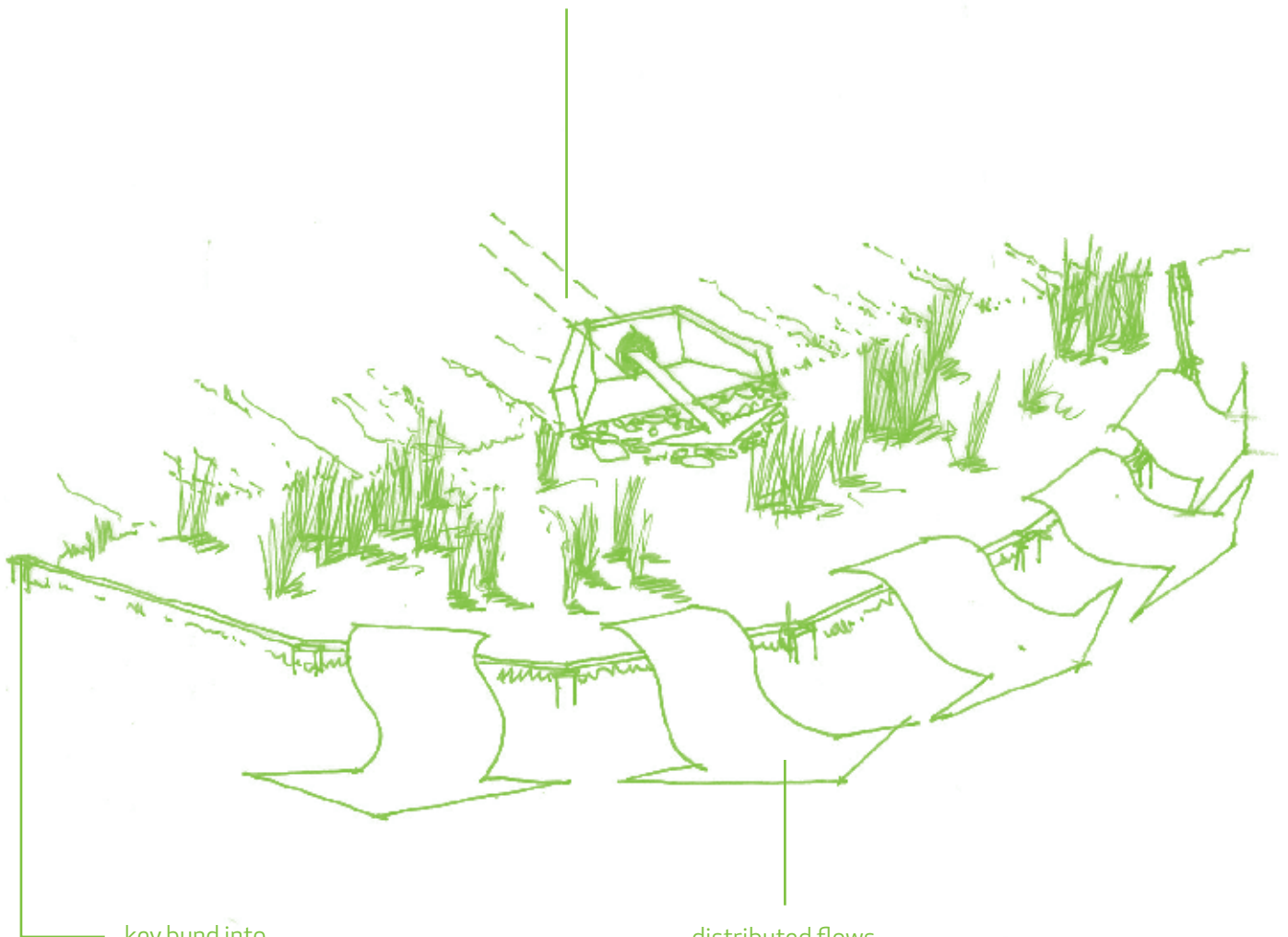


Infiltration



Water Quality

stormwater pipe



key bund into
embankment

distributed flows

Fish Friendly Outlet

application: large scale constructed wetlands adjacent to riparian zones

advantage:

- habitat
- simple construction

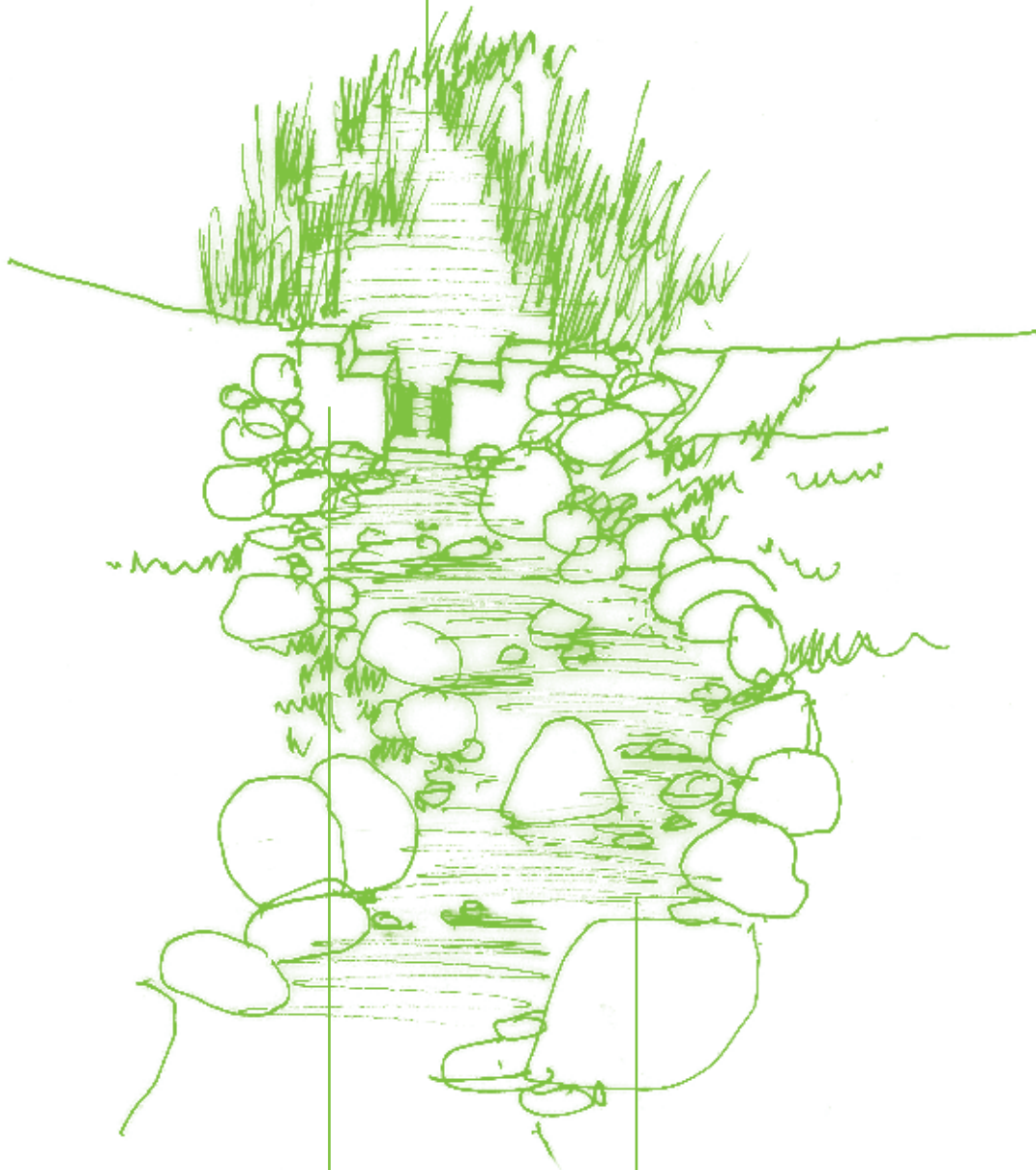
note: exotic fish species may disturb base sediments within wetlands

idea (sourced or via): Matt Moore - Reef Catchments



Habitat

wetland



weir with vertical slot
maximum drop 80mm

rock ladder with
refuge pools

The general community can be valuable allies for environment causes. WSUD should improve community understanding of the water cycle and promote stewardship.



Community Interest

Feature Biopod

application: prominent sites with limited available space

advantage:

- point of interest
- small footprint
- capture rainwater
- water treatment

note: additional irrigation may be required to sustain plants



Community Interest



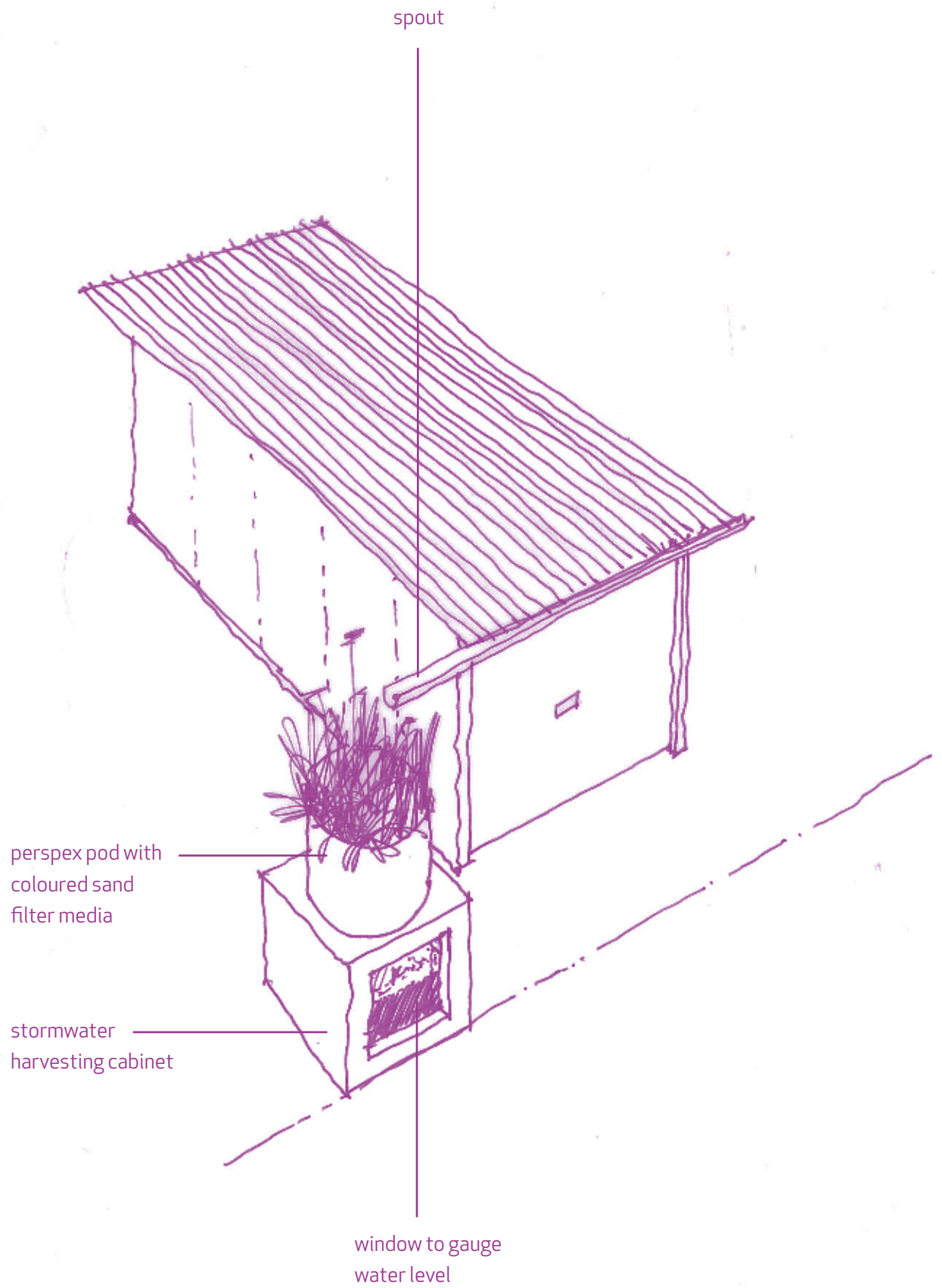
Space Efficient



Stormwater Reuse



Water Quality



Art Feature Pit Grate

application: prominent overflow pits

advantage:

- connect public to marine conservation
- aesthetics

note: integration of hydraulics / maintenance access

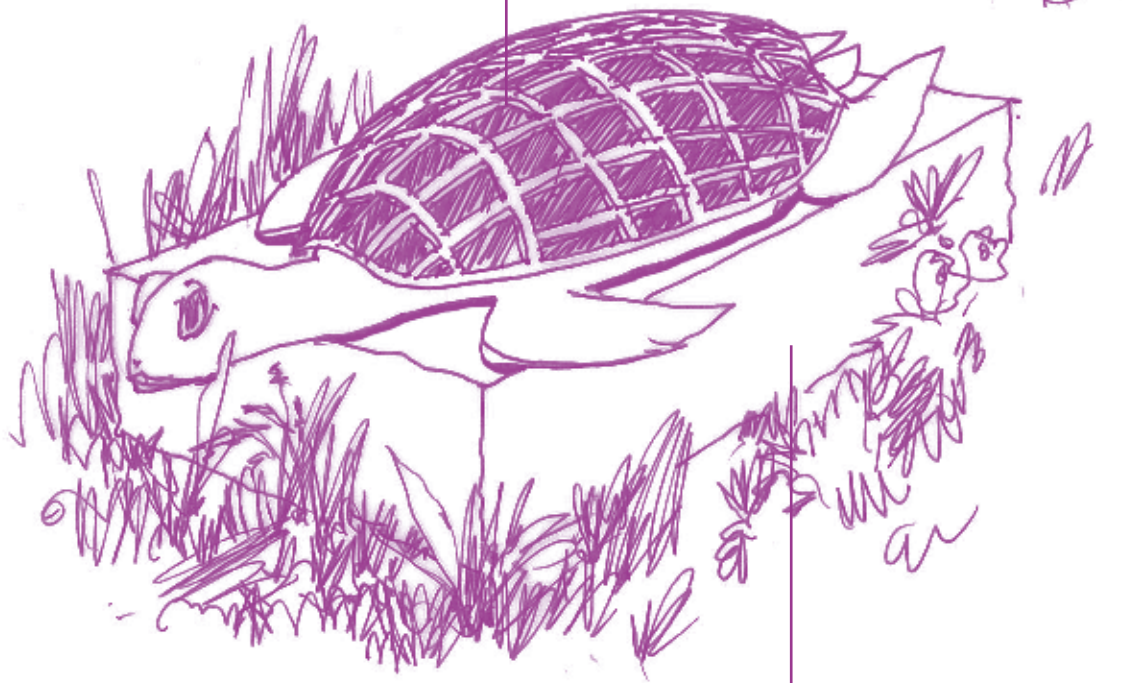


Community Interest



Sense of Place

open grate



overflow pit

Grate Detailing

application: shallow streetscape bioretention systems with grate/drains

advantage:

- create community interest
- aesthetics
- low profile drain

note: trafficability considerations



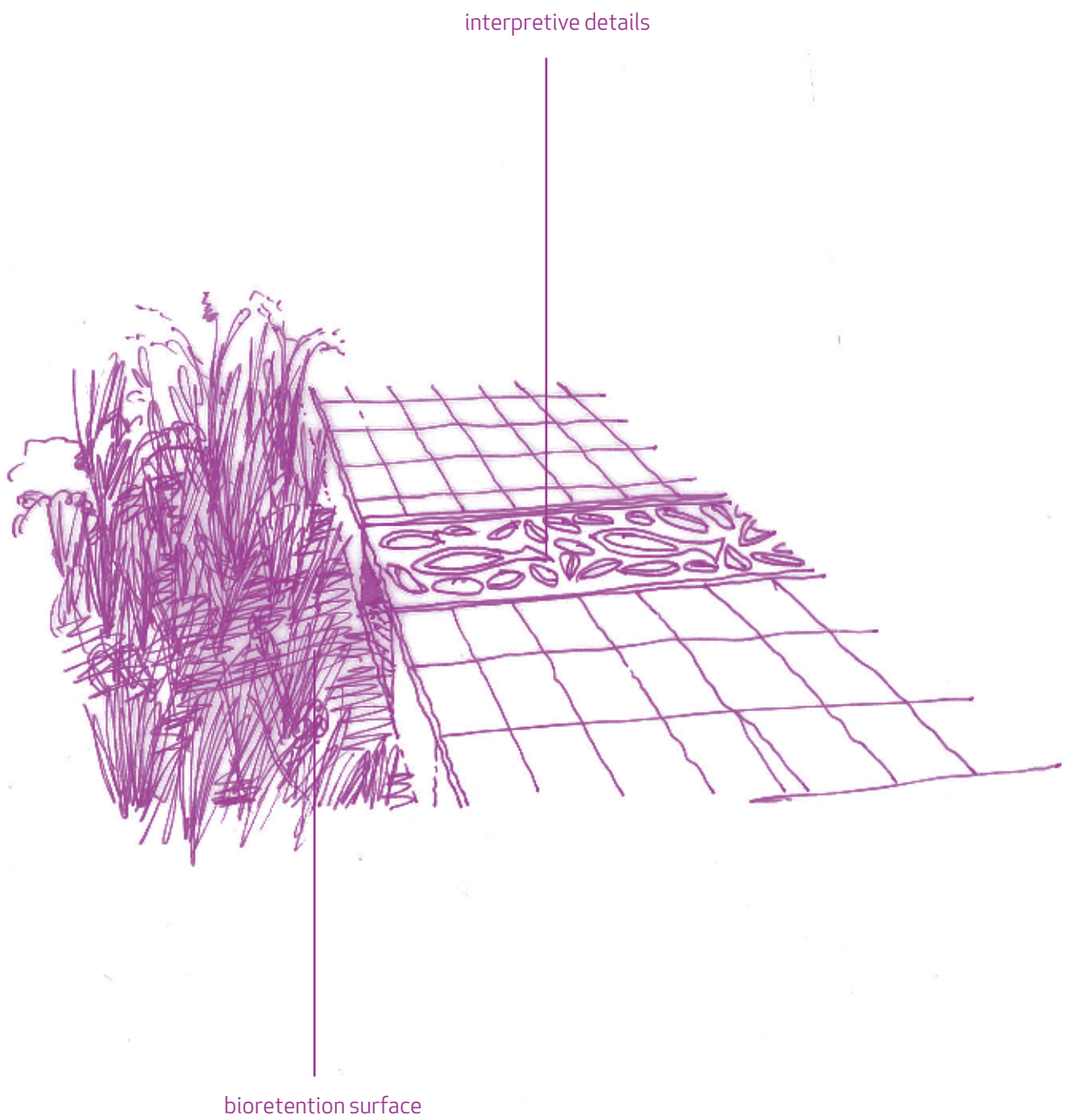
Community Interest



Sense of Place



Space Efficient



interpretive details

bioretention surface

Eco Shower

application: beachside showers / eco resorts

advantage:

- create community interest
- feature
- at source treatment

idea (sourced or via): Jun Yasumoto - inhabitat.com



Community Interest



Sense of Place



Water Quality



hardy endemic coastal vegetation

Concrete pits, headwalls, scour pads and retaining walls should seamlessly blend into the landscape or be used to create striking features.



Visual Impact



Circular Pit

application: urban bioretention systems

advantage:

- improved aesthetics
- comparable cost

note: maintenance access requirements

idea (sourced or via): Shaun Leinster – DesignFlow



Visual Impact



Resource Efficient



Perimeter Step

application: urban bioretention systems with dropoff

advantage:

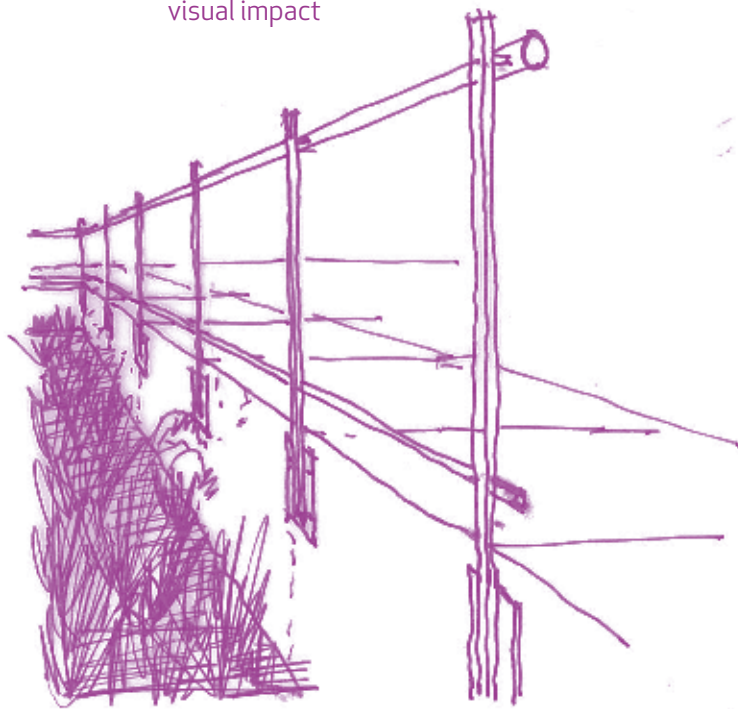
- reduced visual impact

note: risk assessment requirements



Visual Impact

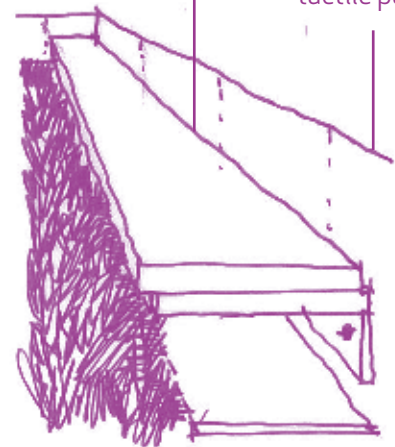
fence has negative
visual impact



reduced visual impact

fixed to wall

tactile paving



utilise filtermedia
under step

Energy Dissipation Sculpture

application: basins with high velocity flows

advantage:

- reduced visual impact
- energy dissipation
- scour protection
- point of interest

note: safety / maintenance / structural considerations



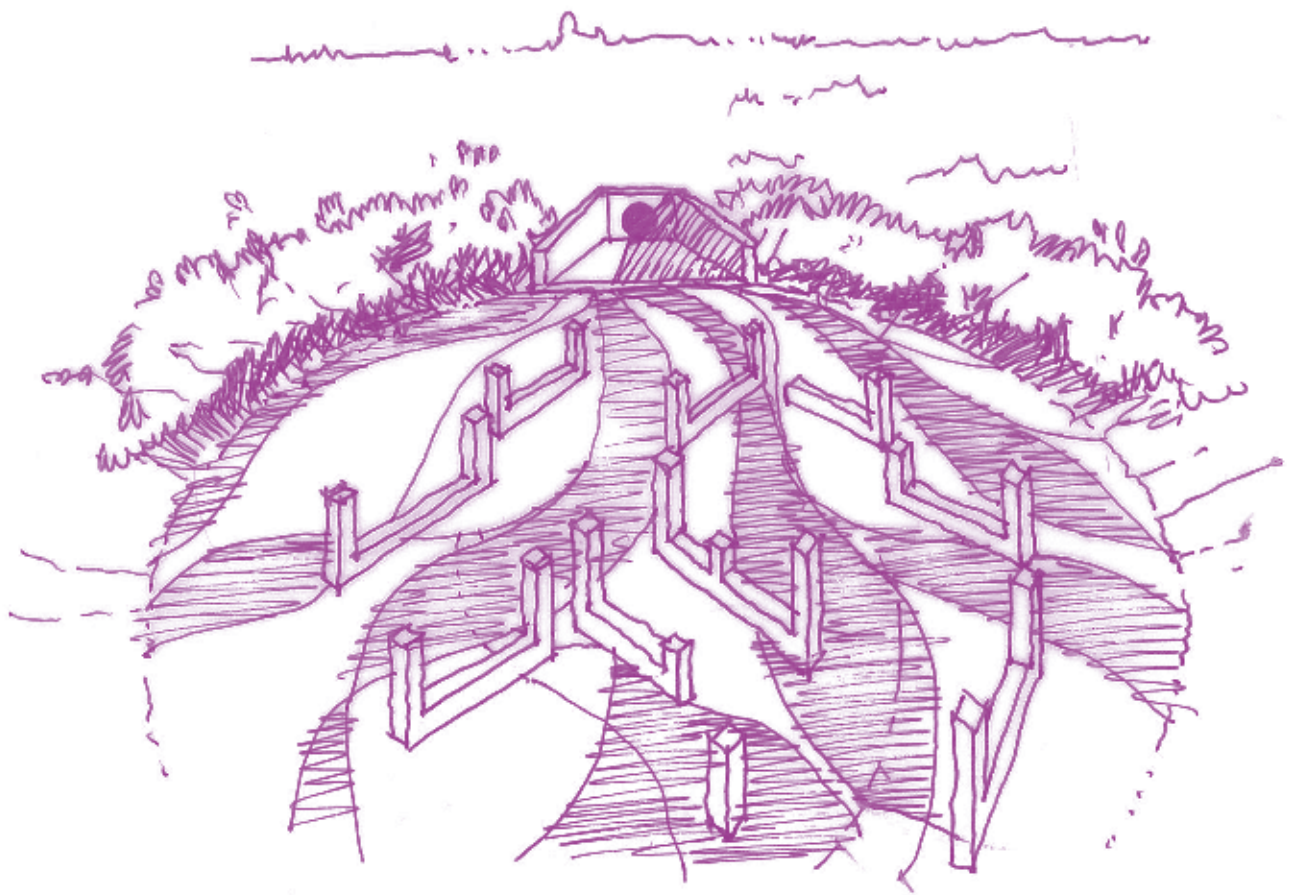
Visual Impact



Efficient Maintenance



Community Interest



Designs should aim to create unique localities that reference local character and enhance a sense of place.

One way this can be achieved is by providing opportunities for the general community to observe flowing water.



Sense of Place

Downpipe Garden

application: on-lot bioretention systems

advantage:

- ownership by resident
- small footprint
- low cost
- at source water treatment

note: consult geotech for infiltration next to footings

(or try a surcharge outlet away from house - idea: Sally Boer – E2 Designlab)



Sense of Place



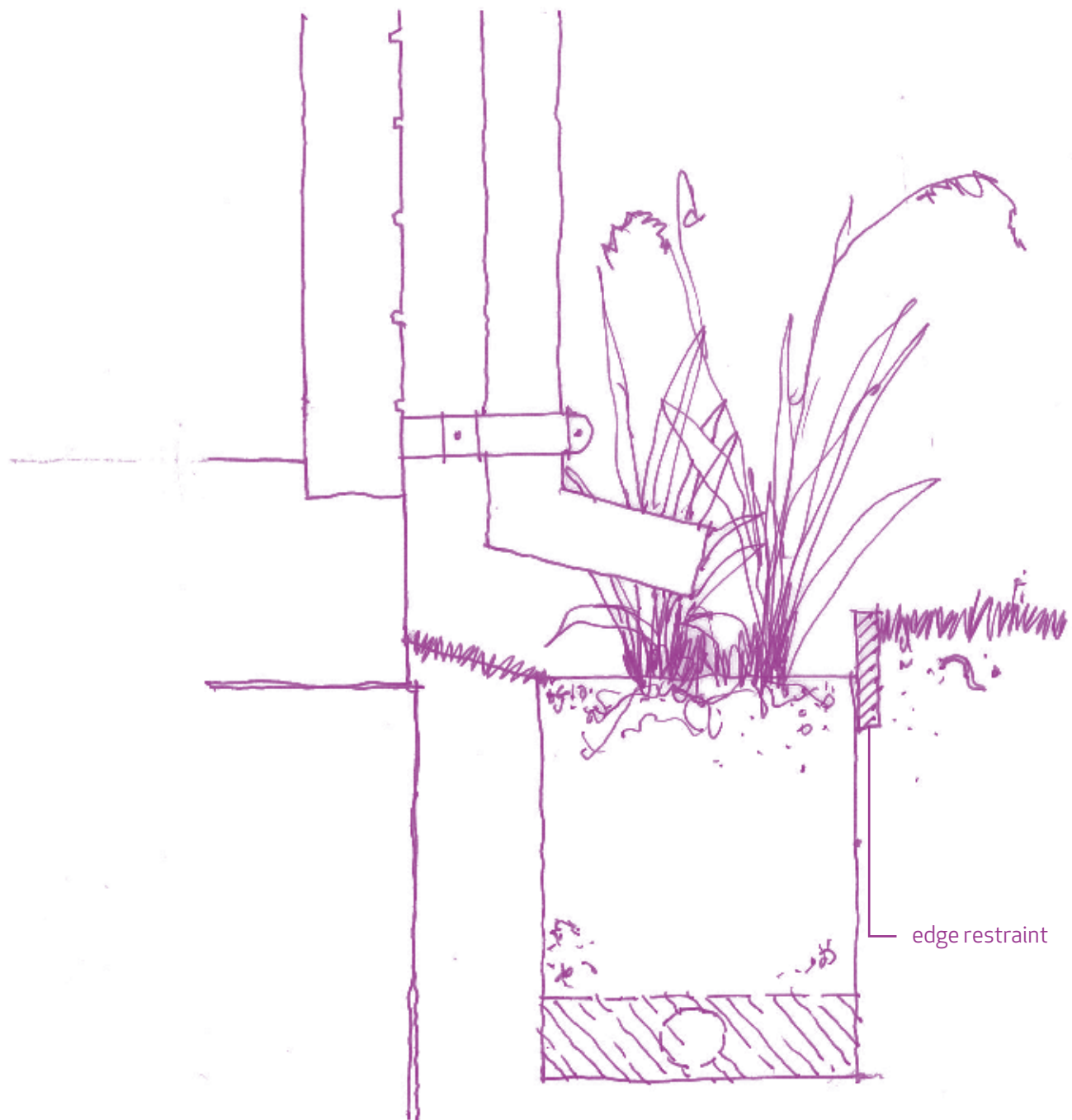
Space Efficient



Resource Efficient



Water Quality



Internal Biopod

application: office space / hotel lobby

advantage:

- sense of place
- connection to outside rainfall
- no external footprint
- stormwater treatment

note: integration of hydraulics



Sense of Place



Community Interest



Space Efficient



Water Quality



Cascade Outlet

application: roofwater treatment systems

advantage:

- water feature
- improve dissolved oxygen
- community interest when raining

note: consider signage / public interaction with stormwater and associated safety issues



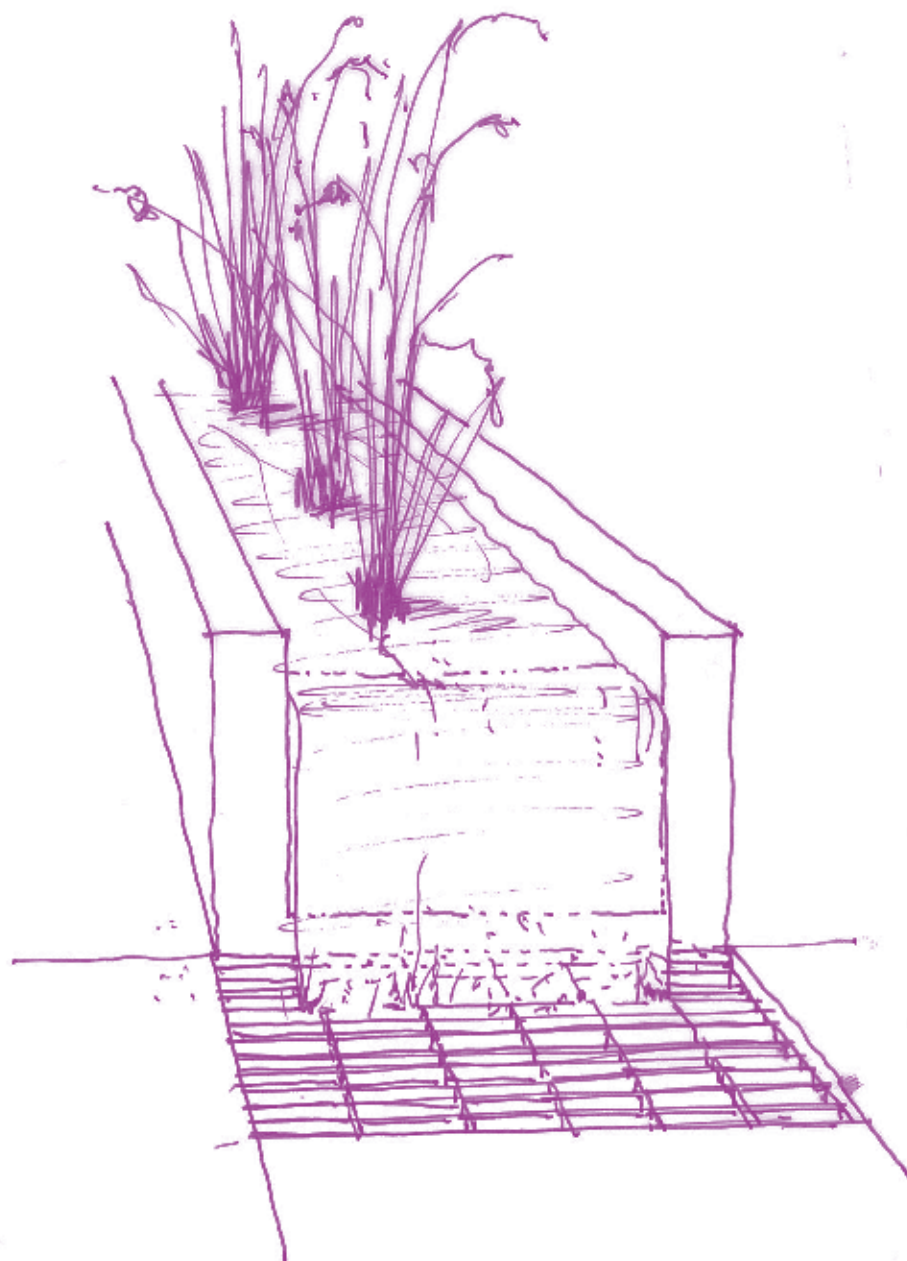
Sense of Place



Habitat



Community Interest



Urban Waterfall

application: outlets with difficult grade issues

advantage:

- water feature
- aesthetics
- improved dissolved oxygen
- prevents erosion

note: safety / structural stability issues



Sense of Place



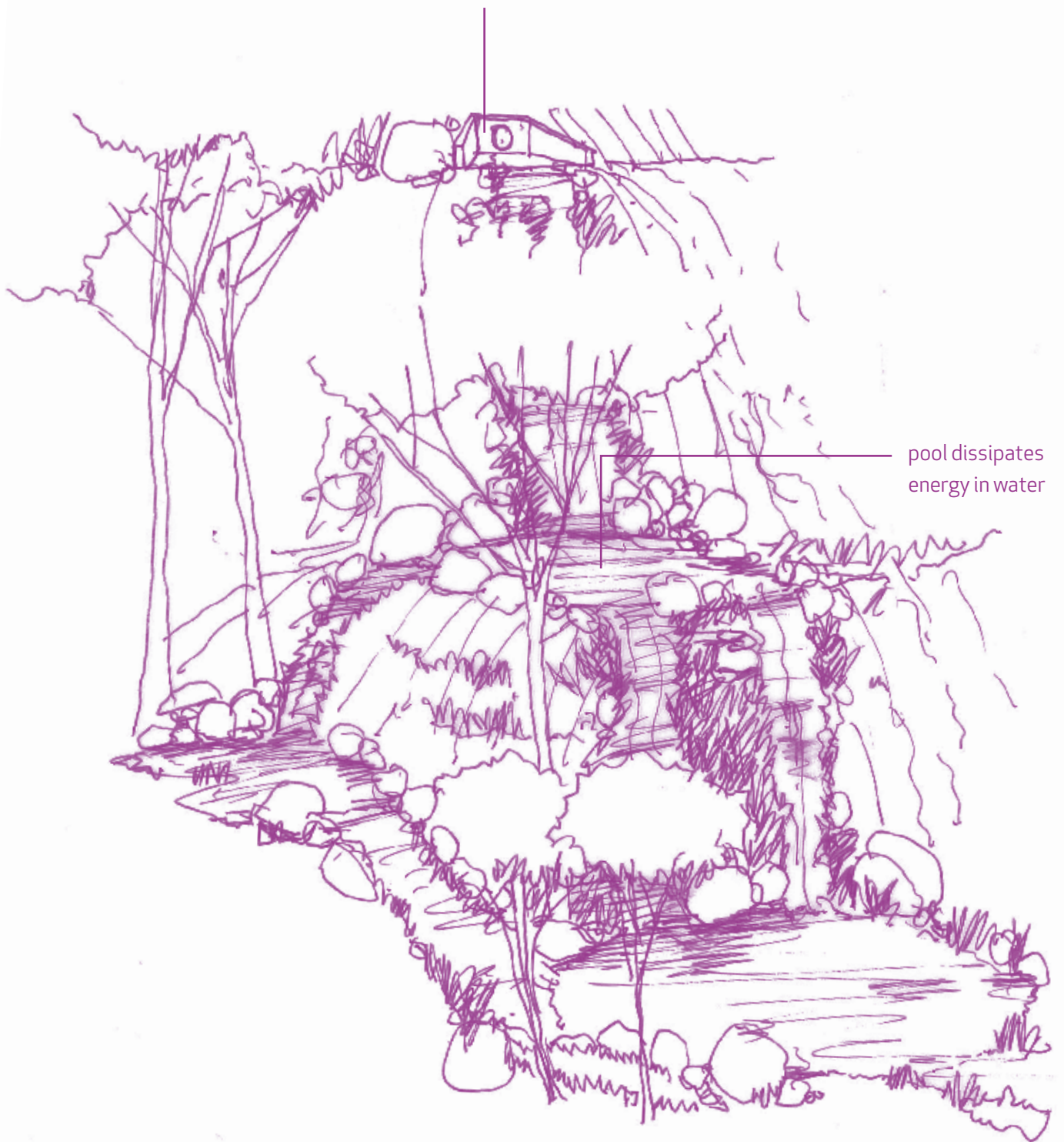
Visual Impact



Habitat

stormwater outlet

pool dissipates
energy in water



With the density of developments ever increasing, there are strong drivers for enhancing the local environmental, social and cultural amenity.

This can be achieved by introducing elements that beautify and soften the urban landscape.



Landscape Amenity

Vertical Garden

application: sites with limited available space

advantage:

- soften urban landscape
- small footprint
- point of interest
- passive cooling benefits

note: additional irrigation may be required



Landscape Amenity



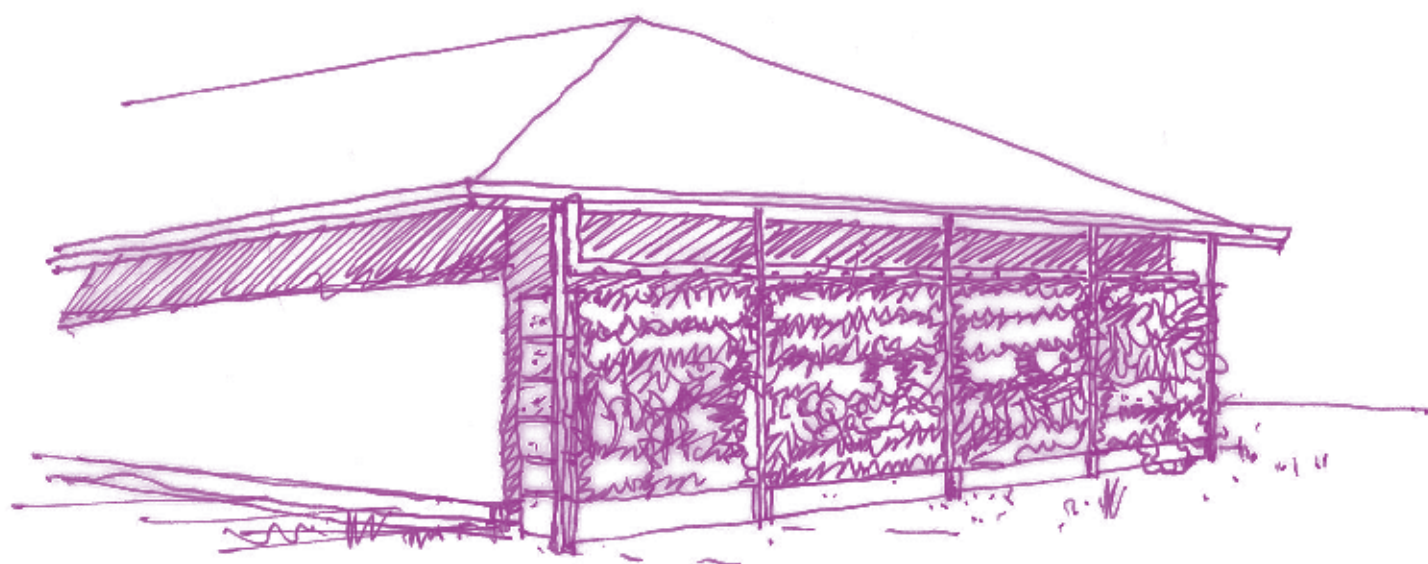
Space Efficient



Community Interest



Microclimate



Terrace Planter

application: steep sites with terraced retaining walls

advantage:

- soften urban landscape
- optimal use of space between walls
- feature wall
- stormwater treatment

note: maintenance / structural and drainage requirements of retaining wall



Landscape Amenity



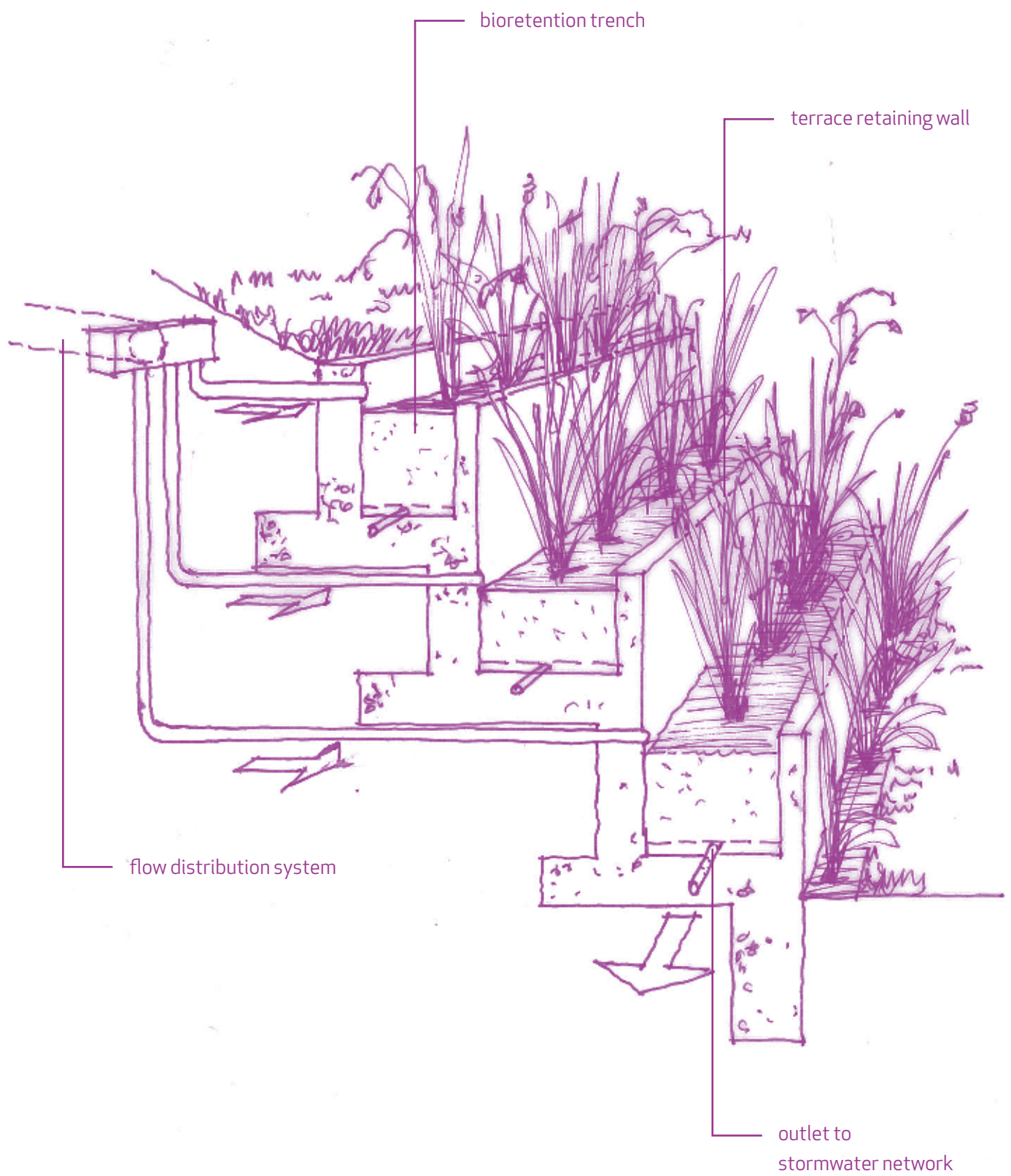
Space Efficient



Sense of Place



Water Quality



Water and shade can be used in combination to mitigate the effects of the urban heat island and create cooler more liveable environments.



Microclimate



Microclimate Design

application: bioretention systems

advantage:

- improved plant establishment
- reduced weed growth and maintenance

note: CPTED issues

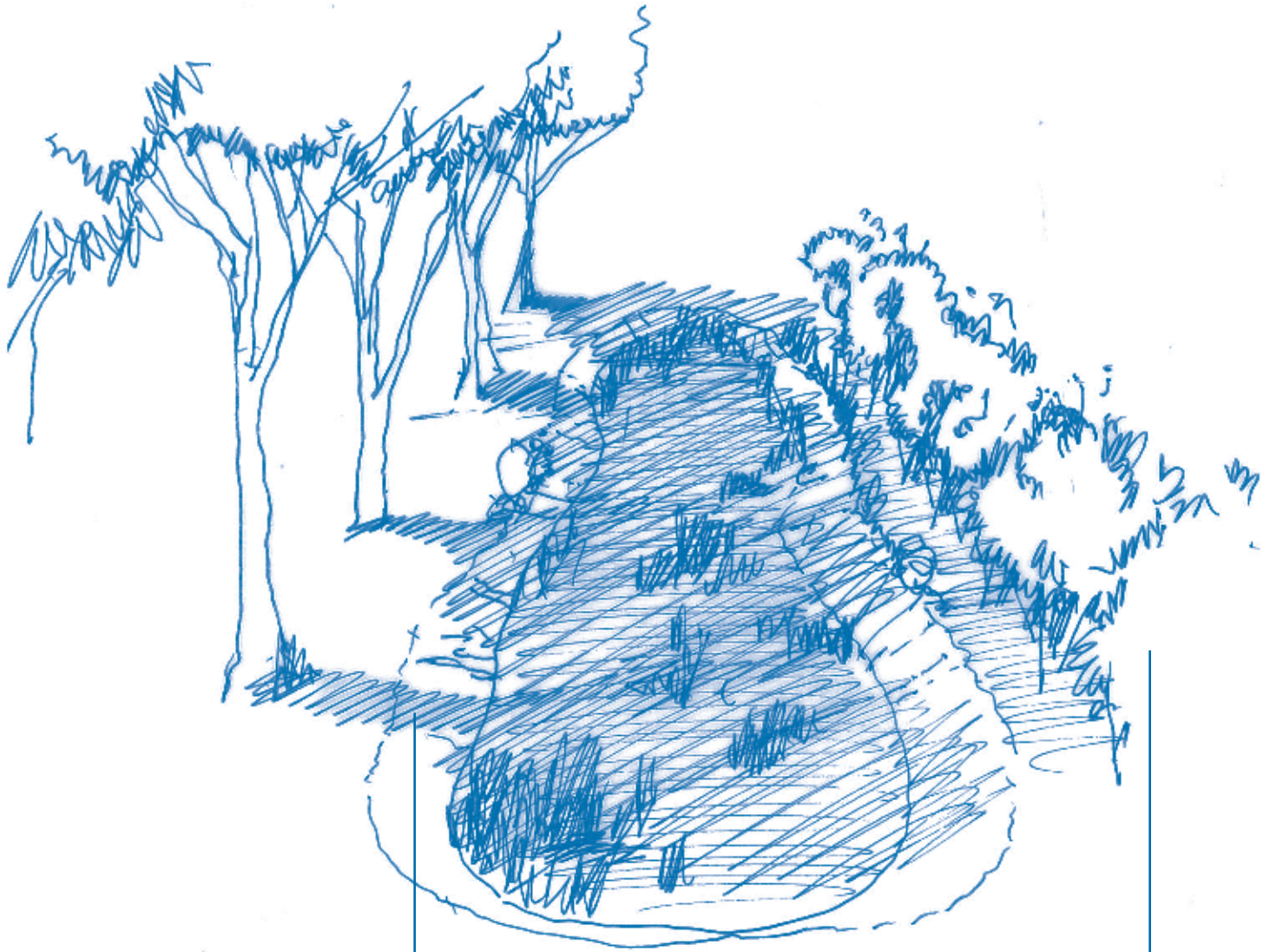
idea (sourced or via): Andrew Cook - AECOM



Microclimate



Efficient Maintenance



shadows cool
surface of basin

shrubs protect from
prevailing winds

Tree Island

application: large bioretention basins with insufficient depth for trees

advantage:

- aesthetics
- improve plant establishment
- reduced weed growth and maintenance

note: tree suitability

idea (sourced or via): Ben Walker – ICC



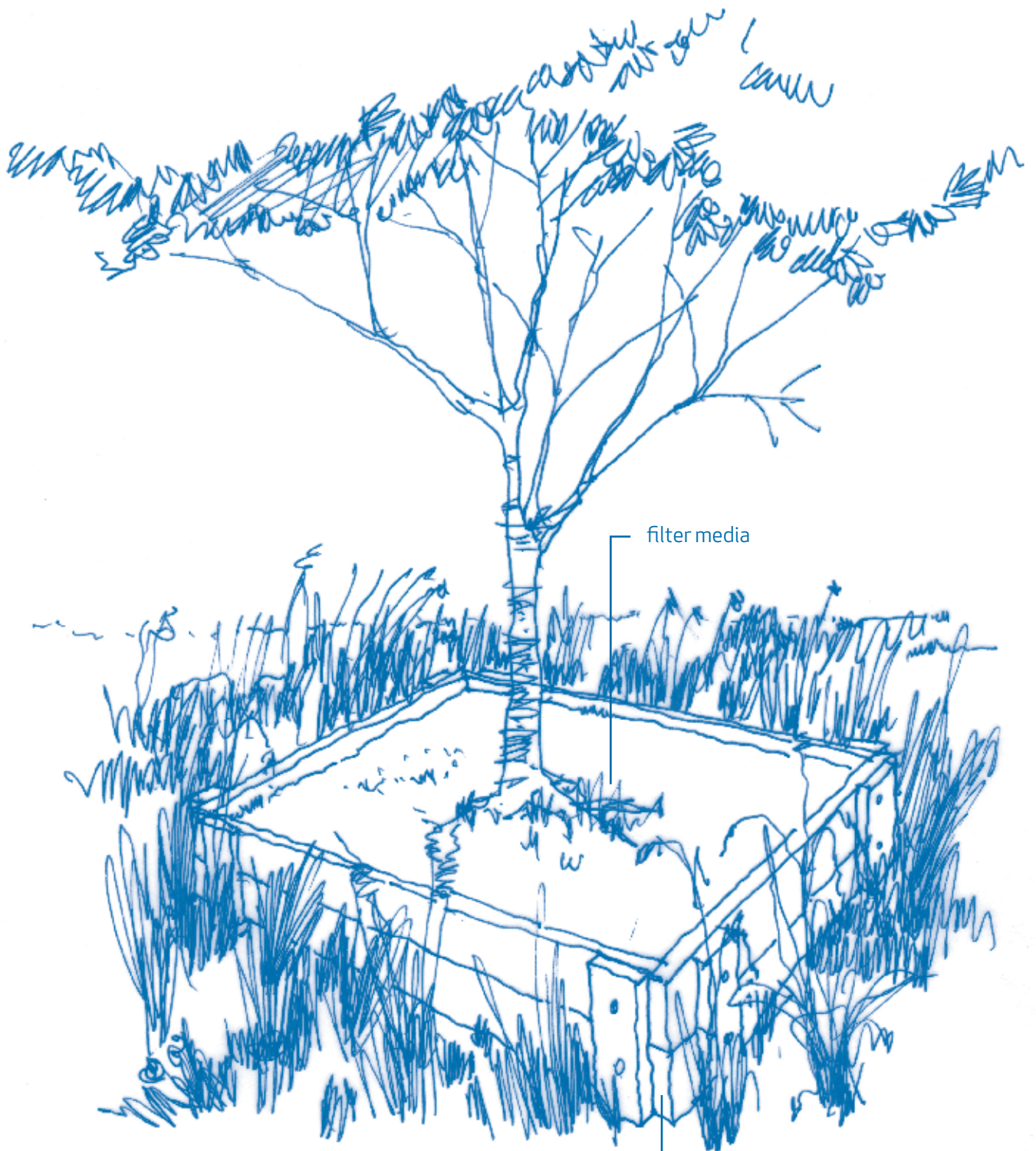
Microclimate



Visual Impact



Efficient Maintenance



filter media

sleeper retaining wall

Urban Cool Pool

application: urban plazas

advantage:

- reduce temperatures in local area
- community feature

note: water to be fit for purpose / safety considerations

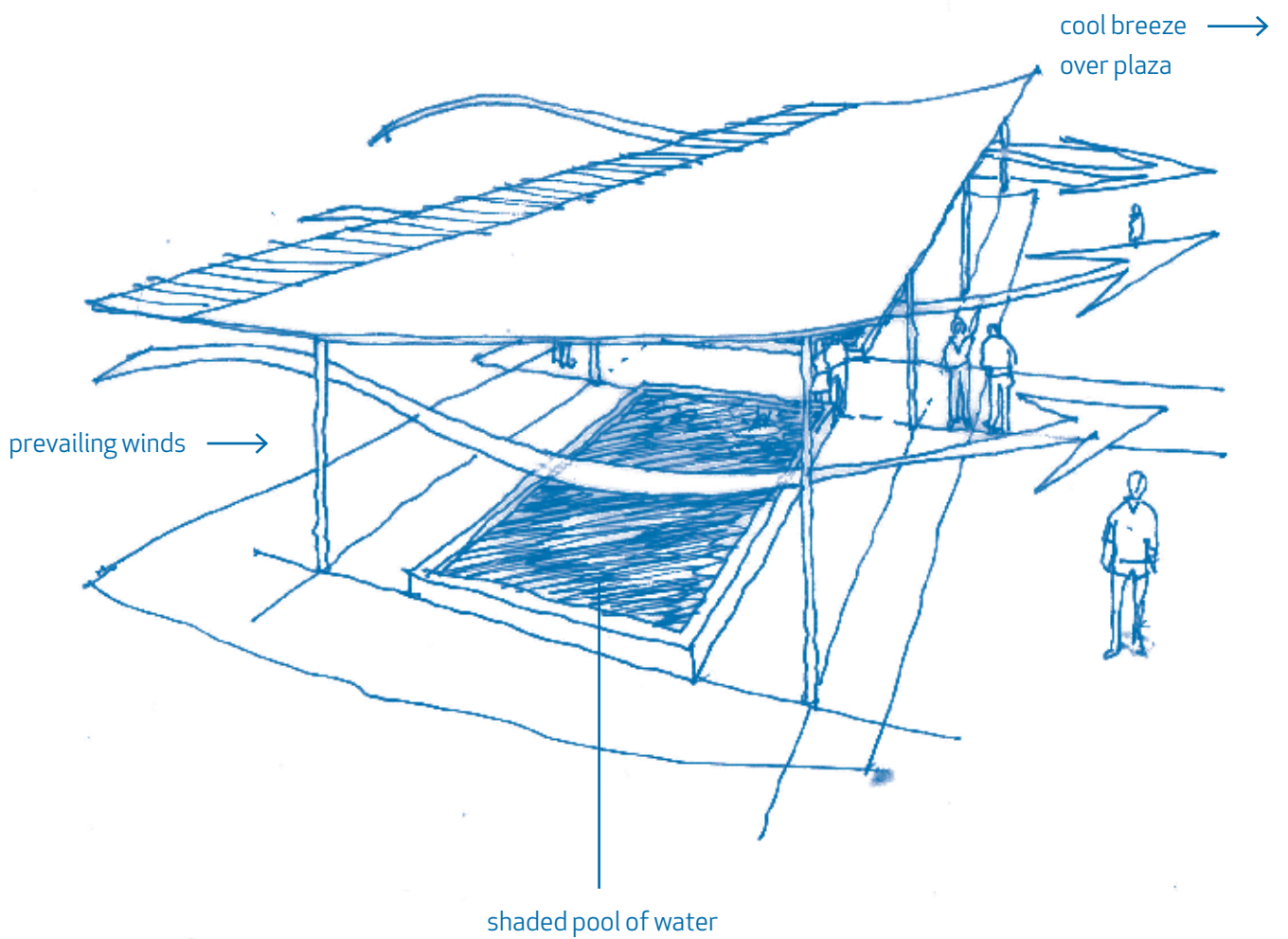
idea (sourced or via): Peter Skinner, UQ & Masdar Project, AECOM



Microclimate



Sense of Place



Extended droughts can greatly diminish the available water supply for communities. In order to build resilience, smart development makes best use of its water resources via fit for purpose stormwater reuse schemes.



Stormwater Reuse

Stormwater Harvest

application: bioretention systems adjacent parks

advantage:

- alternative water supply
- hydrological benefit
- improved landscape outcomes
- additional treatment

note: water to be fit for purpose



Stormwater Reuse



Flow Management



Landscape Amenity



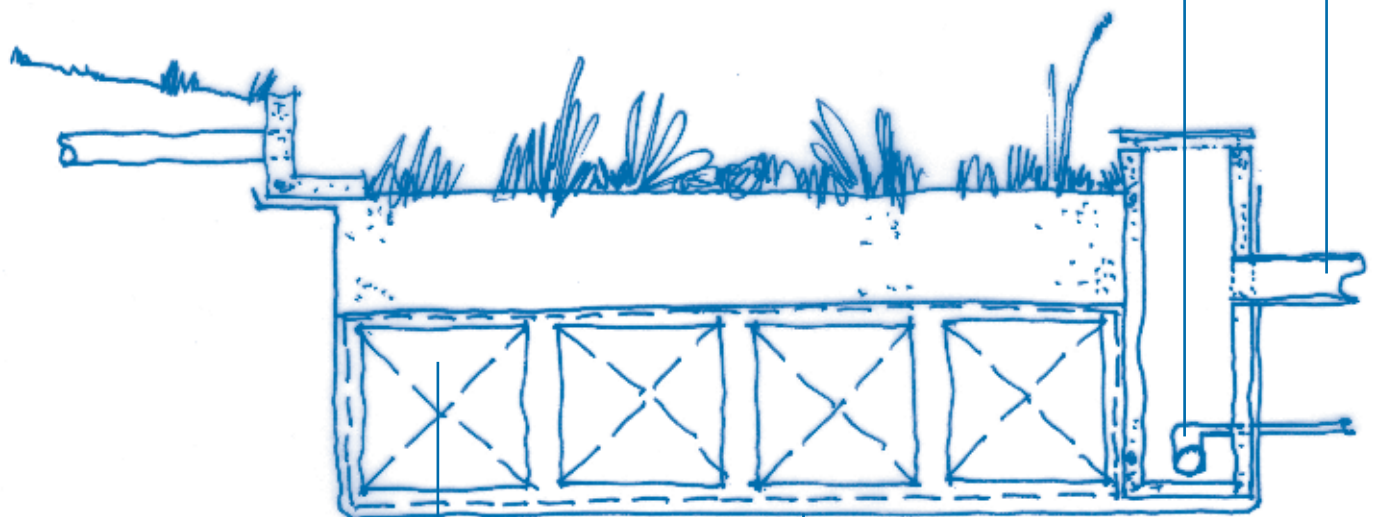
Water Quality

overflow to stormwater network

pump to irrigation parks

impermeable liner

stormwater harvesting cells



Infiltration Branch

application: downstream of bioretention basins

advantage:

- utilise treated stormwater
- promote infiltration
- improved tree growth
- hydrological benefit
- additional treatment

note: groundwater conditions / water needs for tree species / tree suitability



Stormwater Reuse



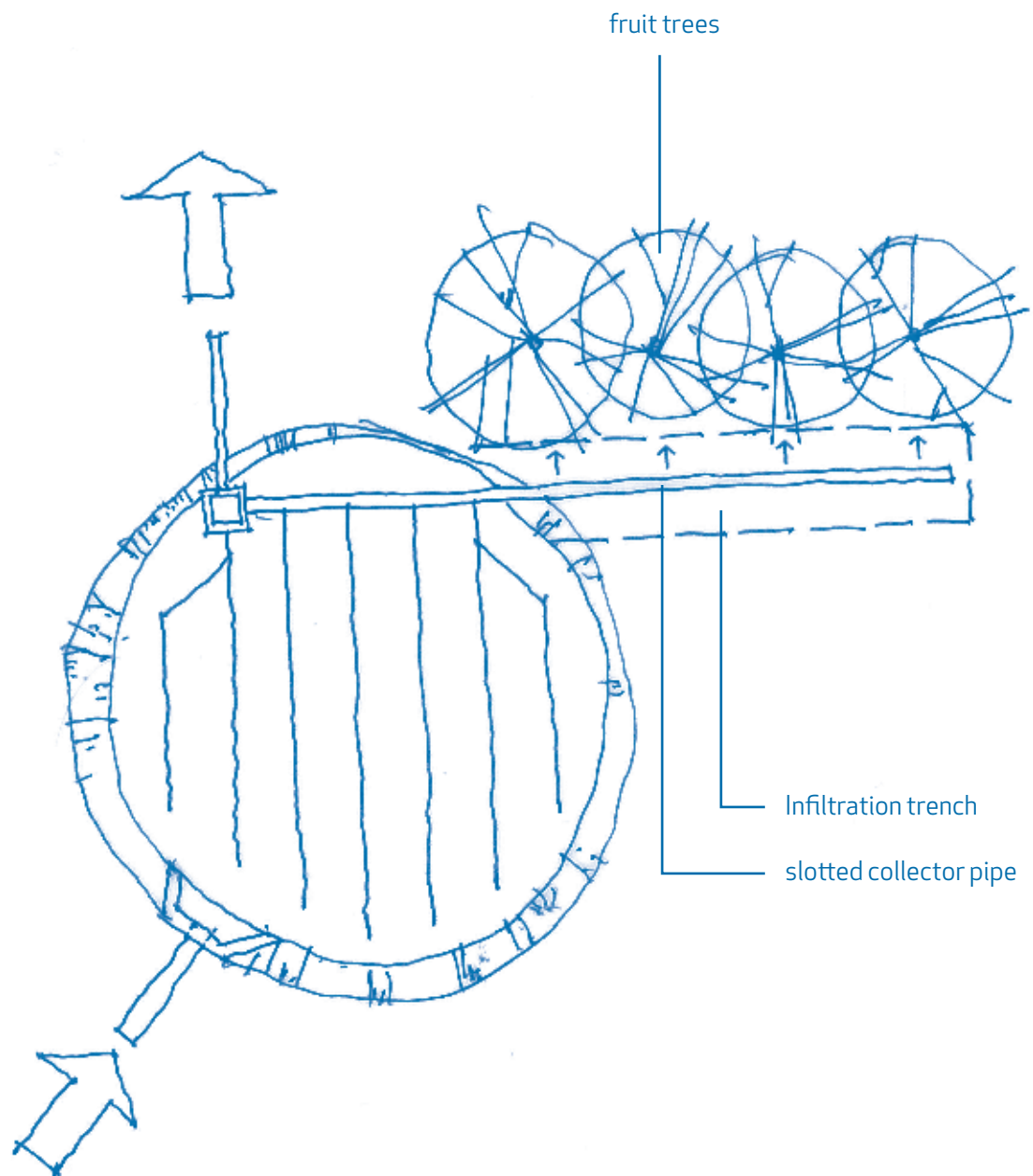
Infiltration



Landscape Amenity



Water Quality



Stormwater Mining

application: opportunistic / stormwater lines with capacity issues

advantage:

- harvest stormwater for reuse
- hydrological benefit
- promote infiltration
- reduce pressure on stormwater network
- additional treatment

note: groundwater conditions, water to be fit for purpose



Stormwater Reuse



Flow Management



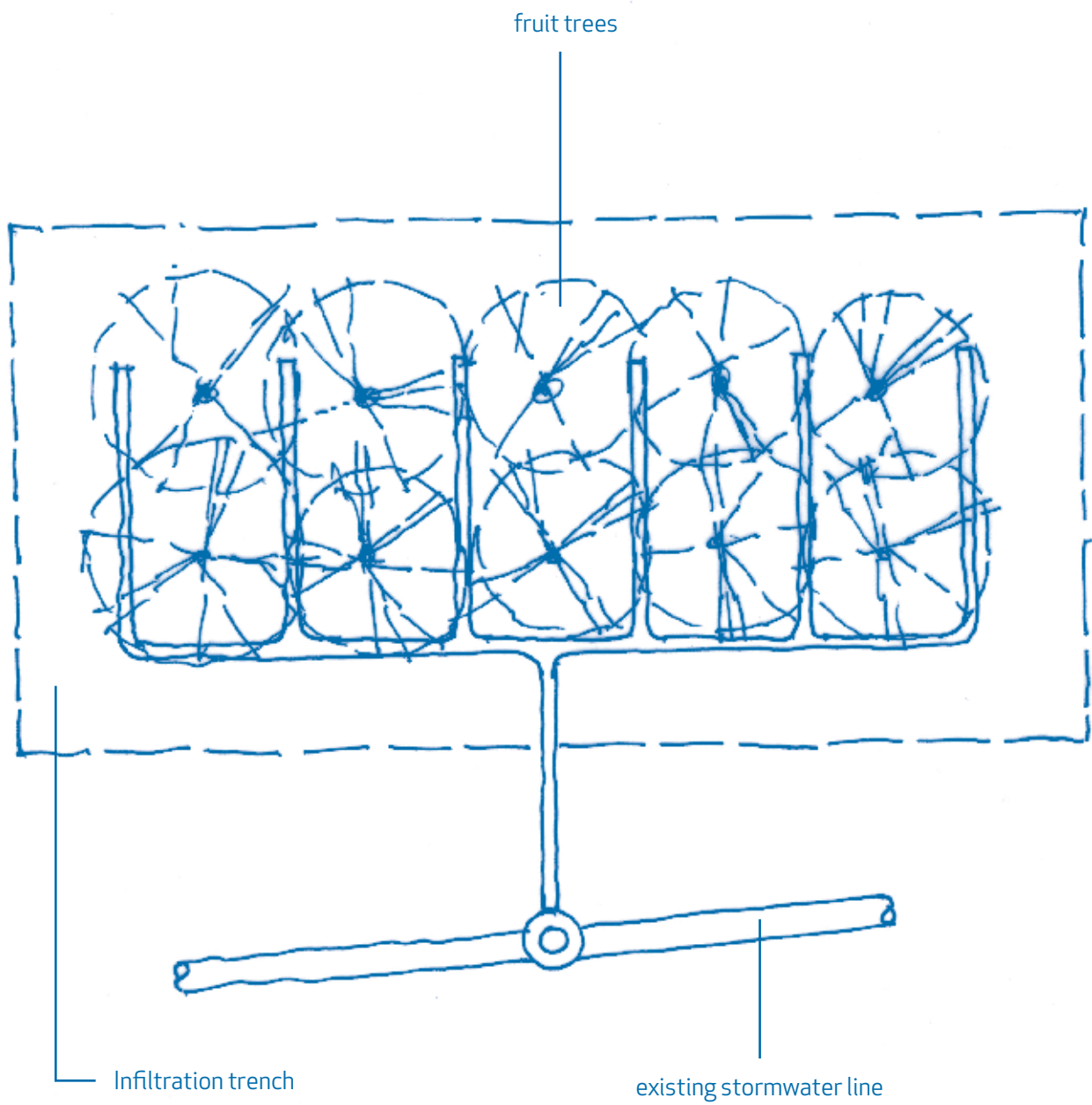
Infiltration



Resource Efficient



Water Quality



Any infrastructure placed within community reach should consider public safety.



Safety

Pod Lighting

application: urban basins with dropoff / lighting requirements

advantage:

- safety
- water ripples cast onto wall
- night time aesthetics

note: use submersible electrics if below water level



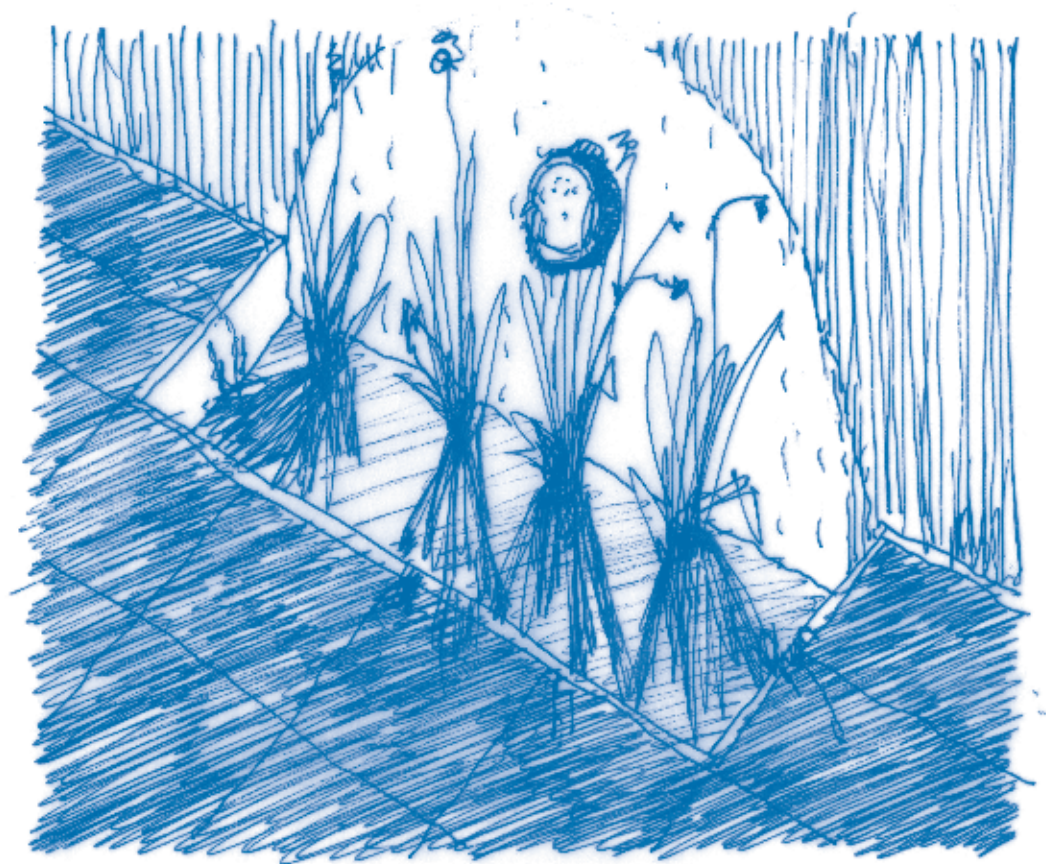
Safety



Sense of Place



Visual Impact



Letterbox Pit / Seat

application: urban bioretention systems

advantage:

- seat acts as barrier to drop off
- pit hidden from view
- pit can function as seat

note: maintenance requirements

idea (sourced or via): Tarek Barklay - AECOM



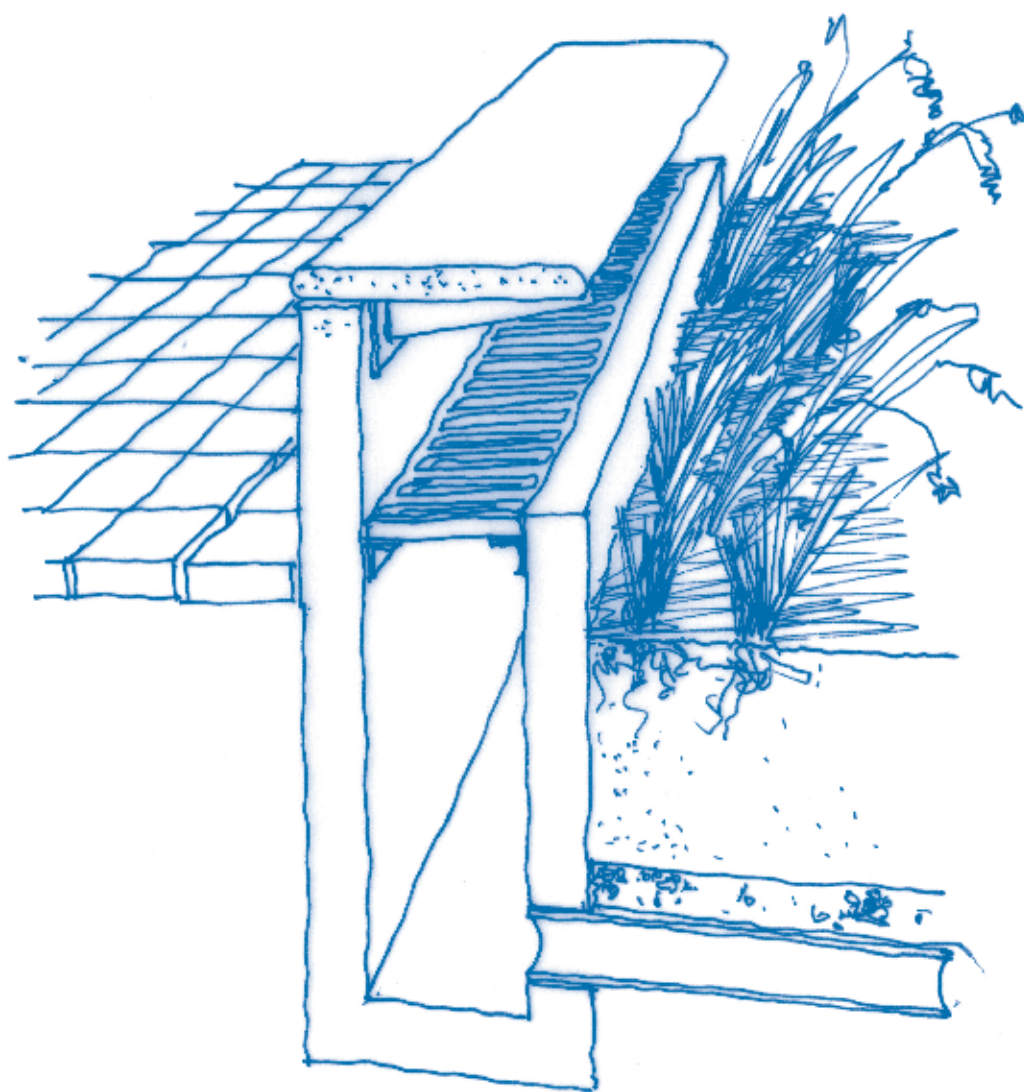
Safety



Visual Impact



Passive Recreation



Carpark Bioretention Swale

application: carpark bioretention systems

advantage:

- trafficable surface eliminates drop off
- minimise footprint

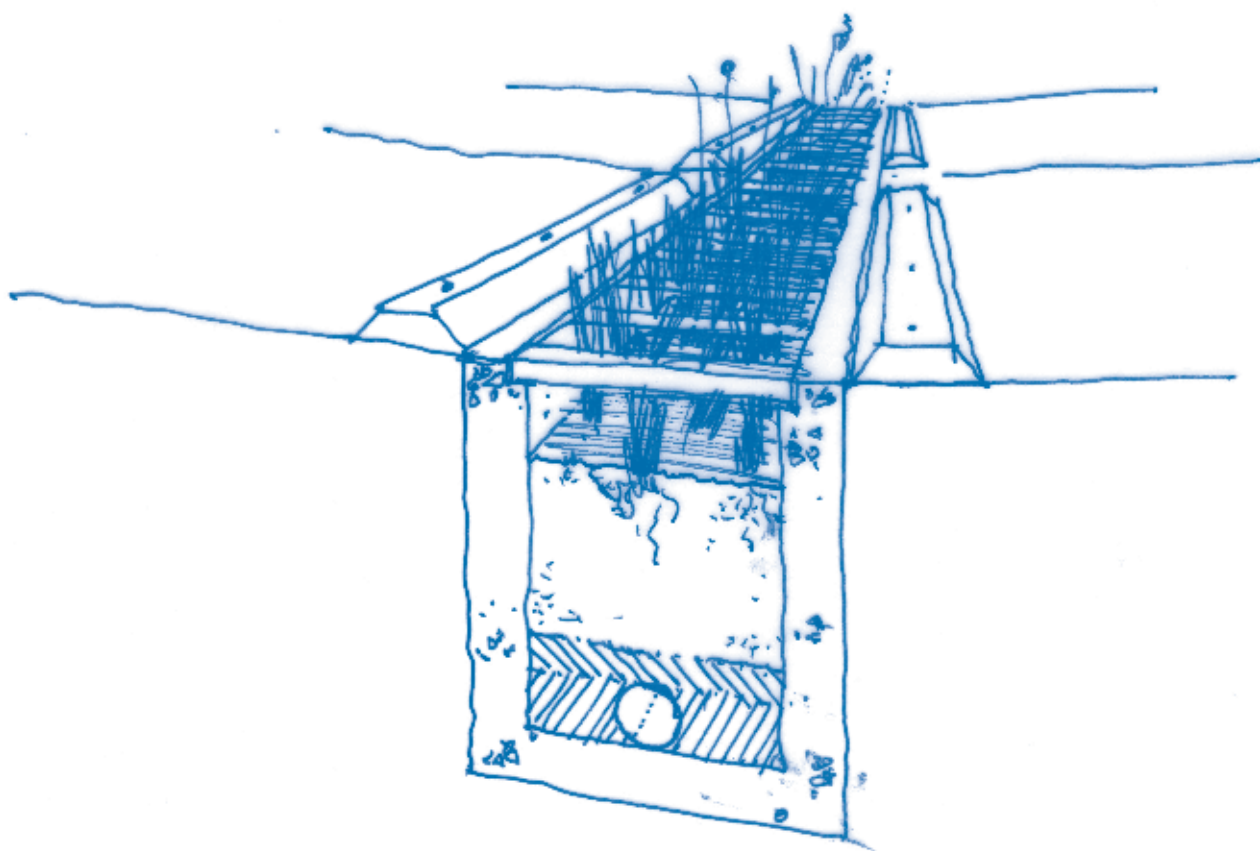
note: structural loading requirements / sunlight penetration for deep systems



Safety



Space Efficient



Design outcomes can contribute to healthy living aspirations within communities by encouraging recreation, contemplation and general well-being.



Passive Recreation

View Deck

application: wetlands

advantage:

- passive recreation
- sense of place

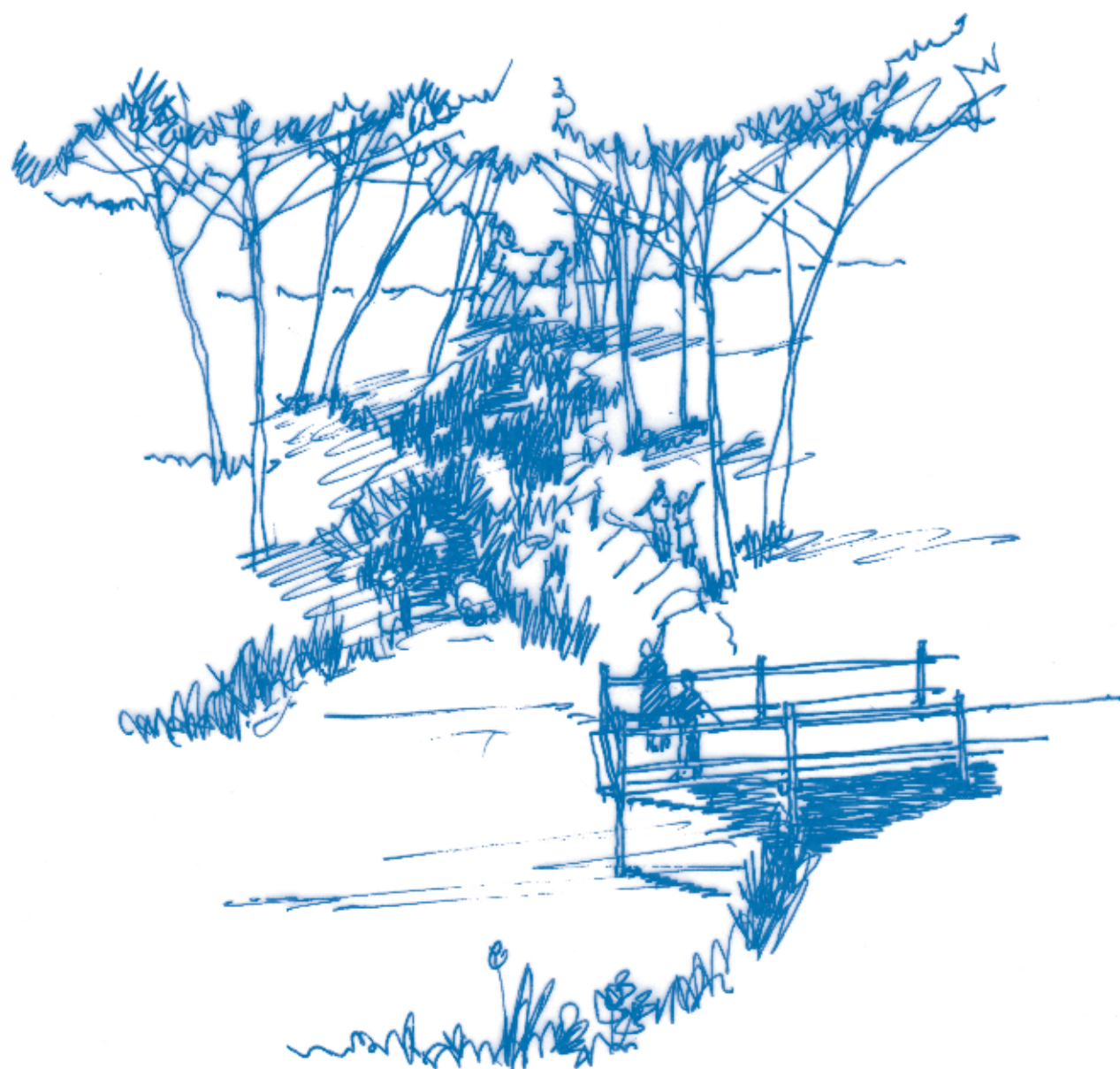
note: safety considerations



Passive Recreation



Sense of Place



Ornamental Pond Filtration System

application: ornamental ponds

advantage:

- passive recreation
- point of interest
- help maintain pond water quality

note: safety considerations



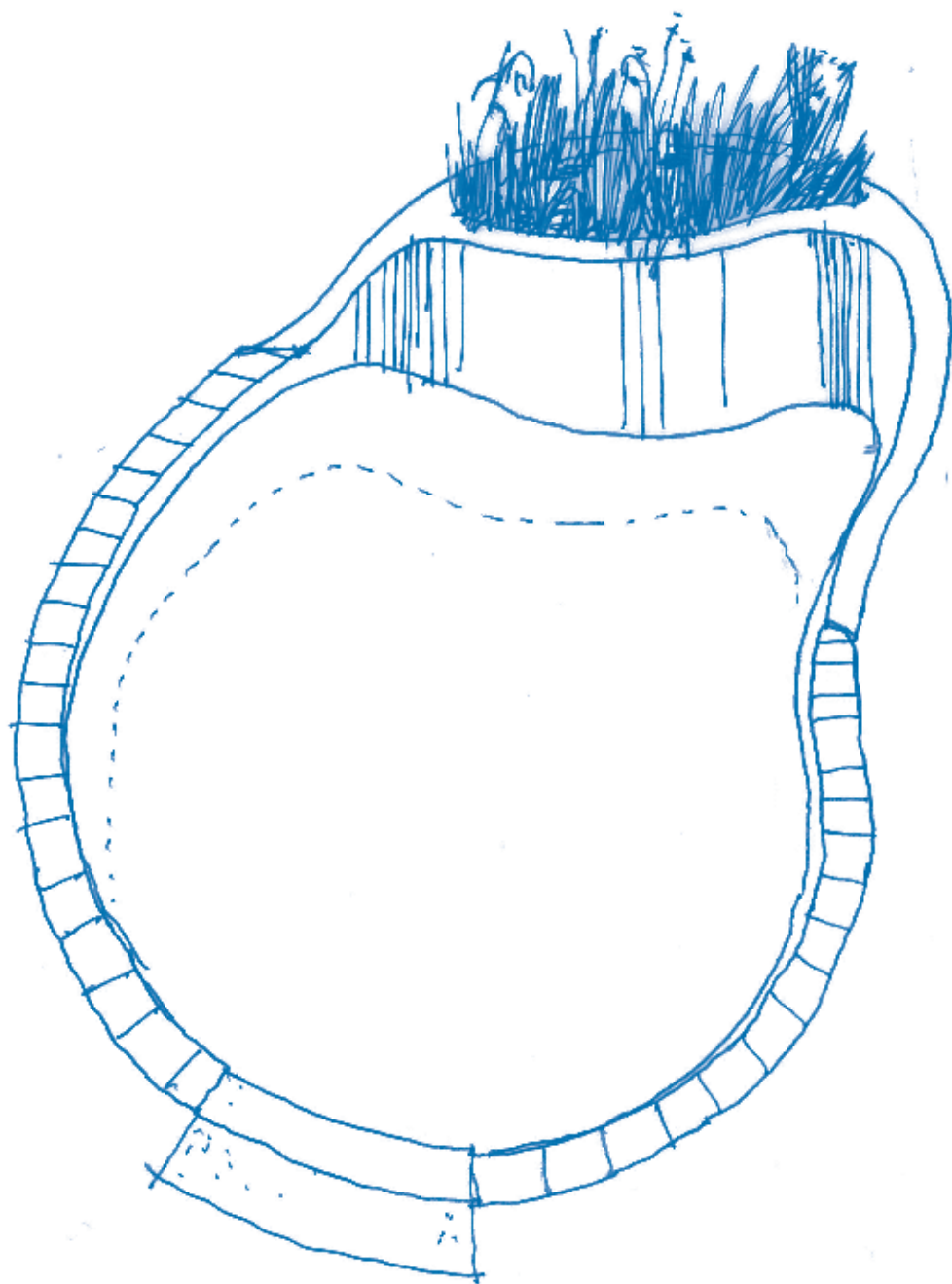
Passive Recreation



Community Interest



Material Sustainability



With funding often in short supply, it is beneficial to create resource efficient WSUD systems that maximise outcomes while considering the upfront and ongoing life-cycle costs.



Resource Efficiency

F

Small Sediment Forebay

application: streetscape bioretention systems

advantage:

- low cost
- easy maintenance / no ponding / scour protection

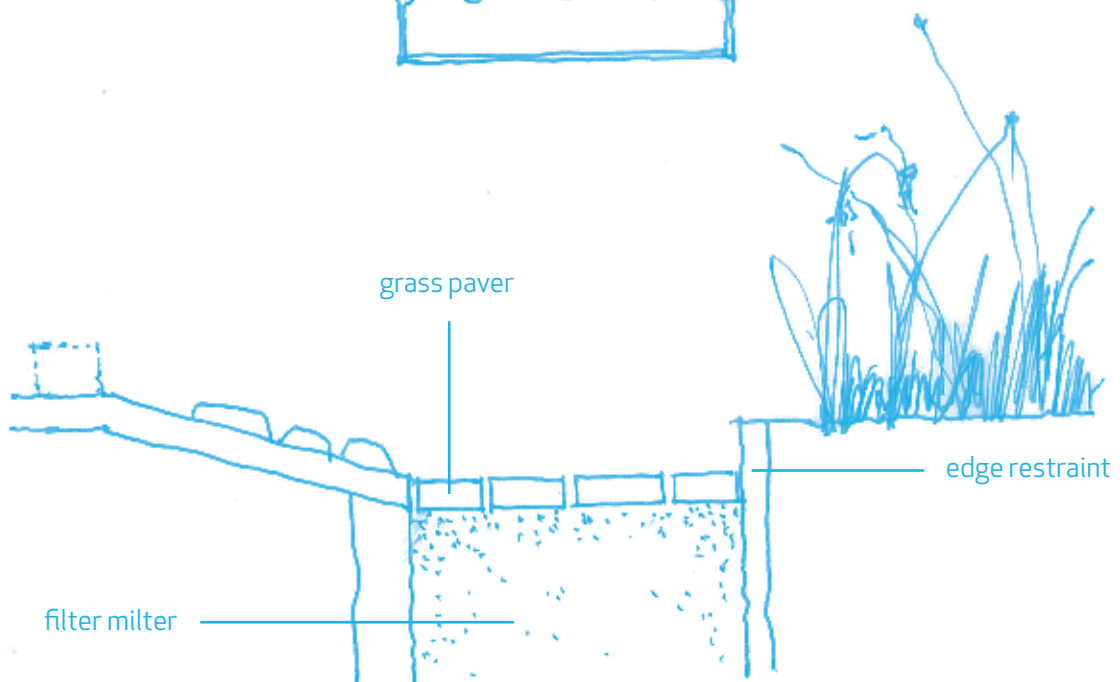
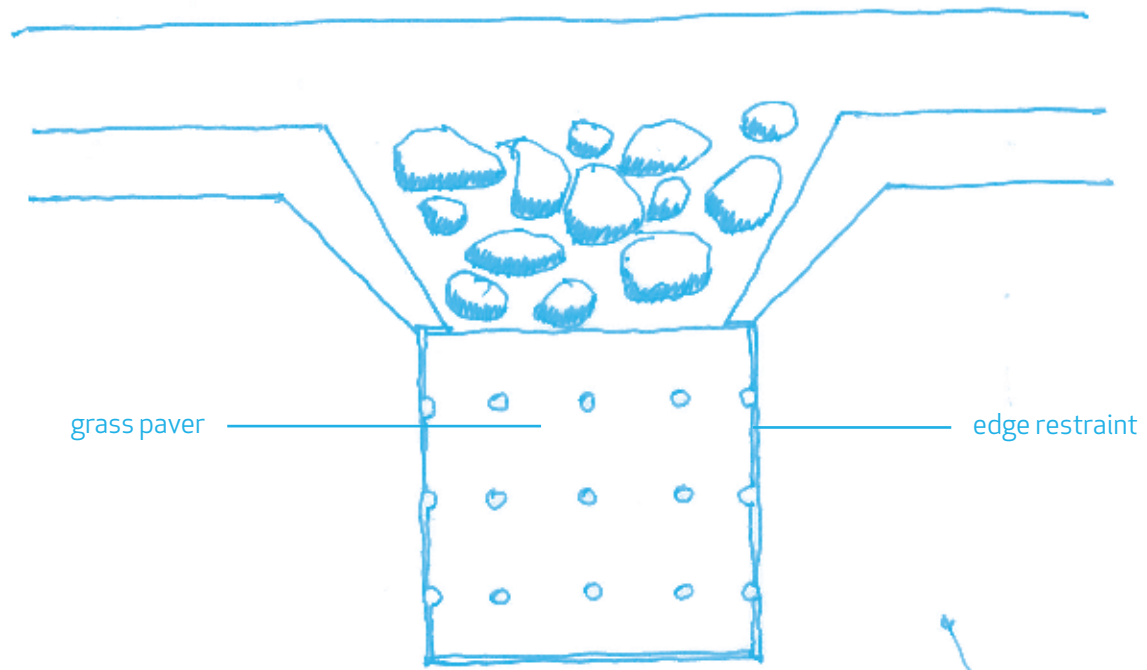
idea (sourced or via): Christoph Pester & Courtney Henderson AECOM



Resource Efficient



Efficient Maintenance



Medium Sediment Forebay

application: bioretention basin

advantage:

- low cost
- easy maintenance / no ponding / scour protection

note: allow for impacts on hydraulics / beams can be removed at later date

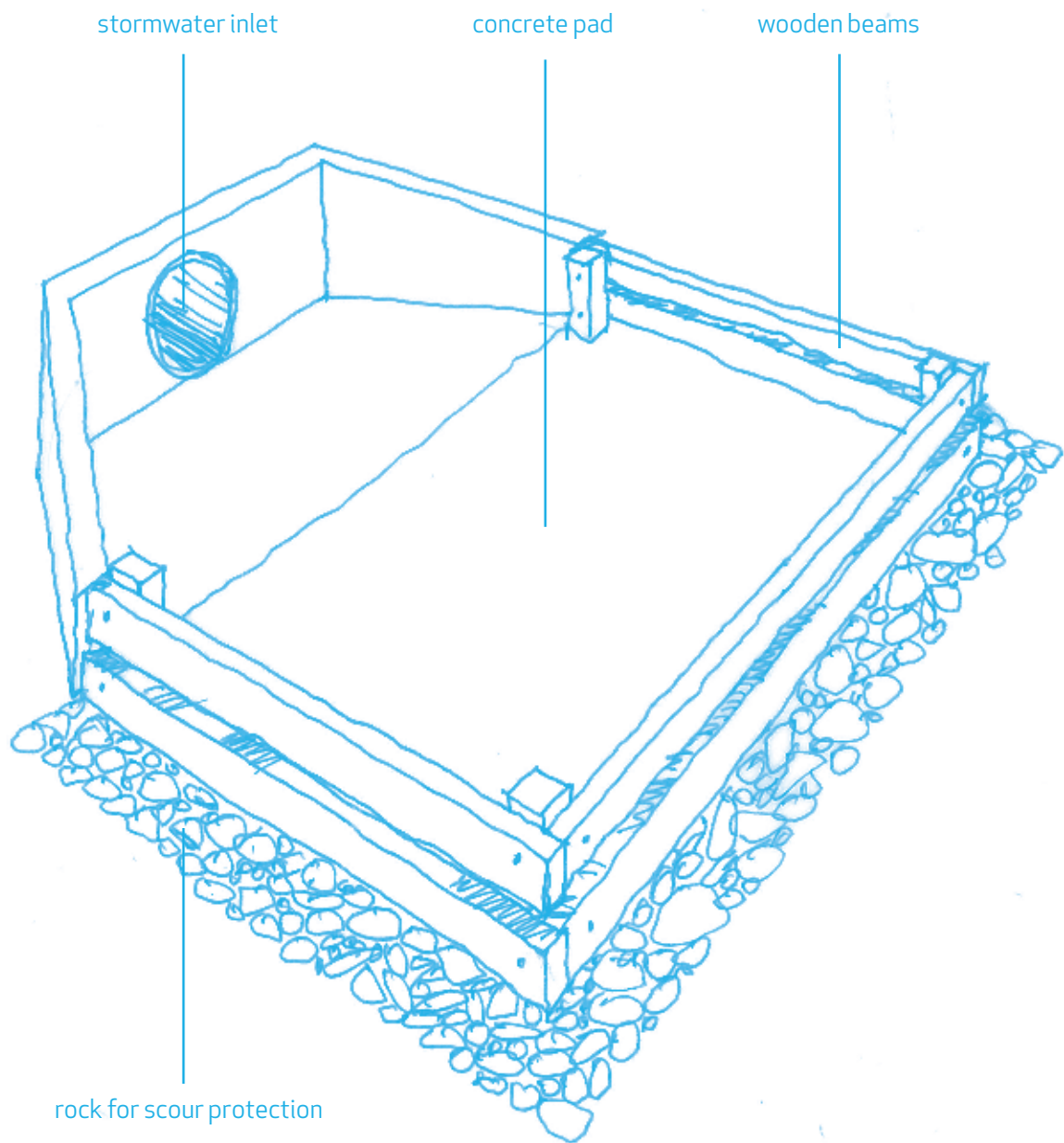
idea (sourced or via): Gary Deans Constructions - Freshwater Estate



Resource Efficient



Efficient Maintenance



Low Impact Access Track

application: basin access tracks

advantage:

- low cost
- aesthetics
- minimises materials

note: batter slope requirements

idea (sourced or via): Andrew Cook - AECOM



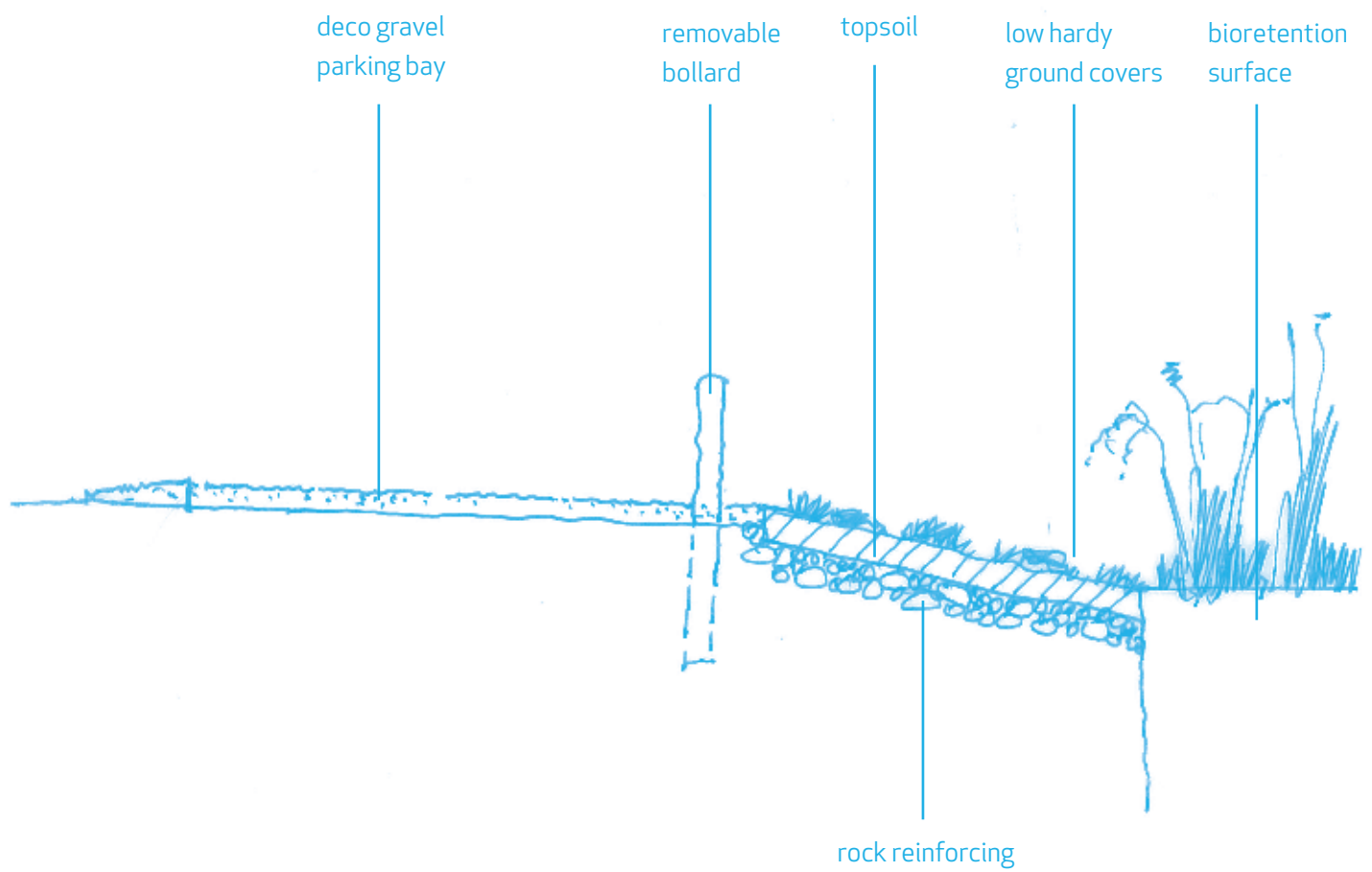
Resource Efficient



Visual Impact



Material Sustainability



Pitless Bioretention

application: bioretention systems next to riparian zones

advantage:

- cost saving for pits
- multiple distributed stormwater outlets
- engage riparian zone

note: surface protection at outlets and overflow weir



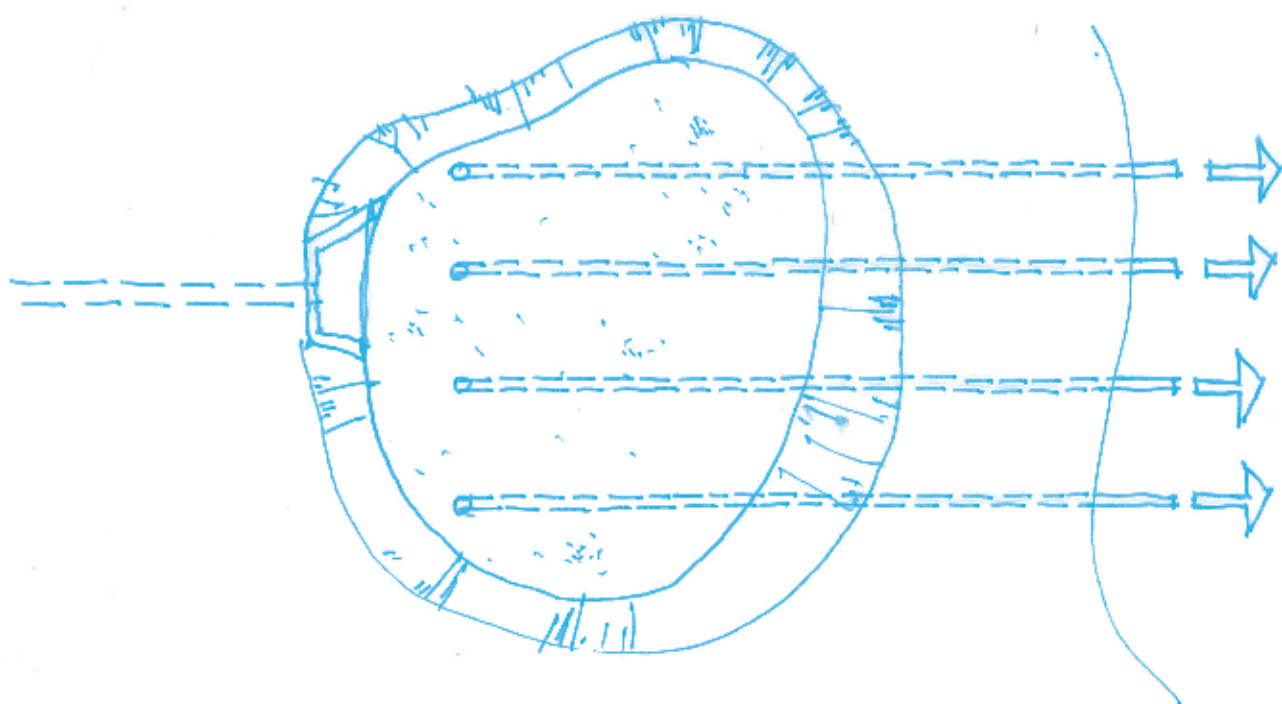
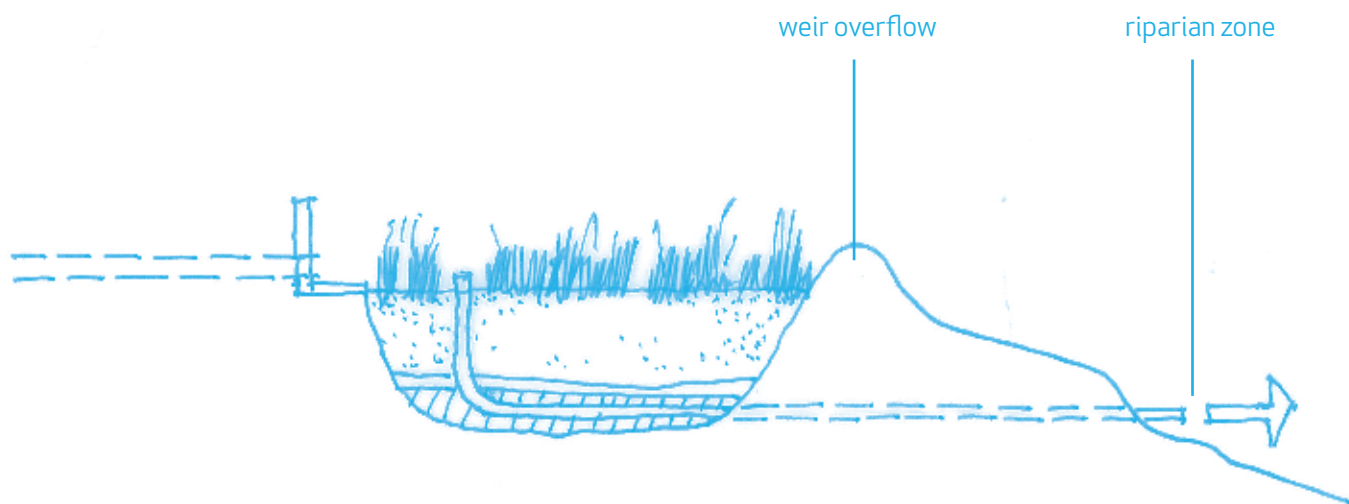
Resource Efficient



Flow Management



Habitat



During the planning and concept design phases, system designs should recognise the relative price of land and provide the appropriate level of space efficiency.



Space Efficiency

Balcony Planter

application: multi storey units

advantage:

- minimise footprint
- treatment of roofwater
- aesthetics

note: structural support as required / filter media specification can be adapted to ensure adequate landscape outcome



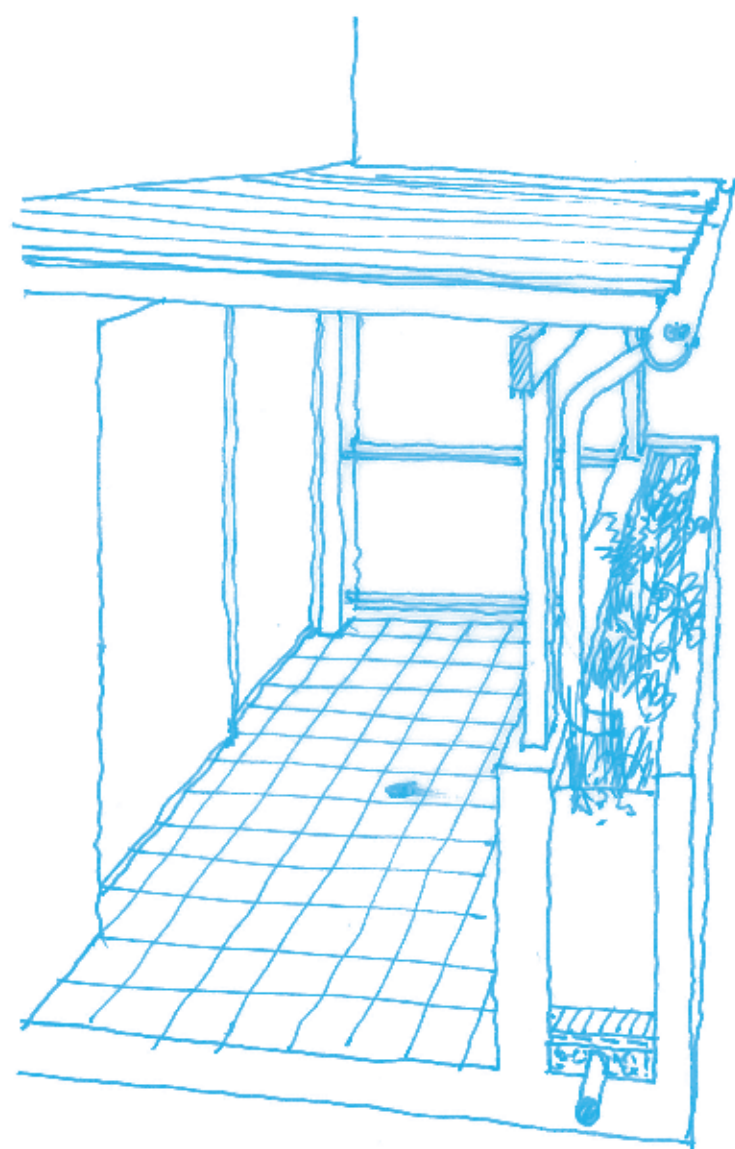
Space Efficient



Water Quality



Sense of Place



Raised Planter Box

application: urban areas with outlet depth issues

advantage:

- can be free draining
- landscape feature
- roofwater treatment

note: include small soakage pit to empty surcharge pipe after storm / consult geotech for infiltration



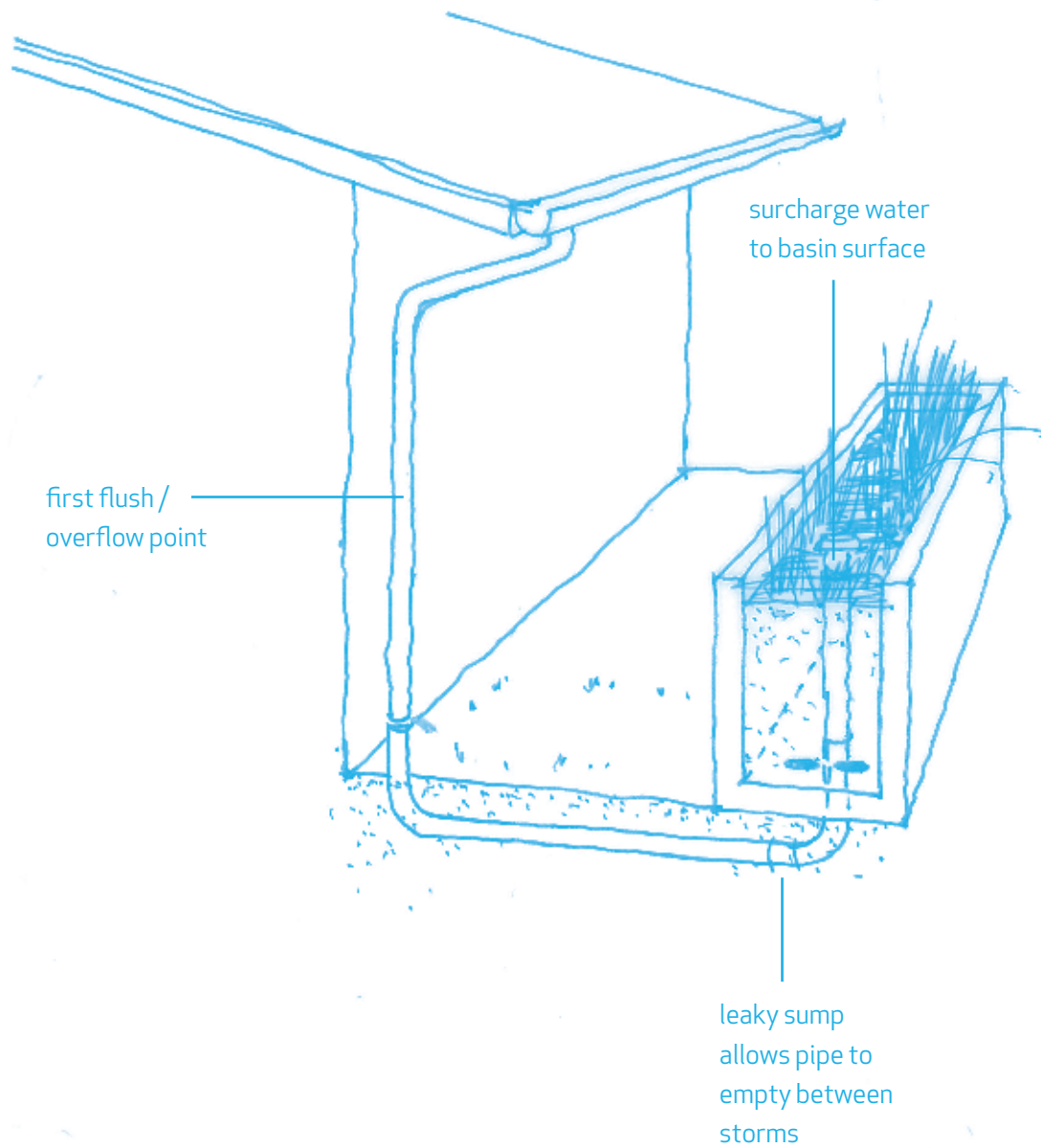
Space Efficient



Sense of Place



Water Quality



Constrained Drainage Layer

application: bioretention systems with a constrained drainage layer

advantage:

- utilise available space
- maximise surface area
- minimise materials

note: consult geotechnical engineer for infiltration systems next to footings / piered footings may reduce intrusions

idea (sourced or via): Hoyland Street bioretention basin



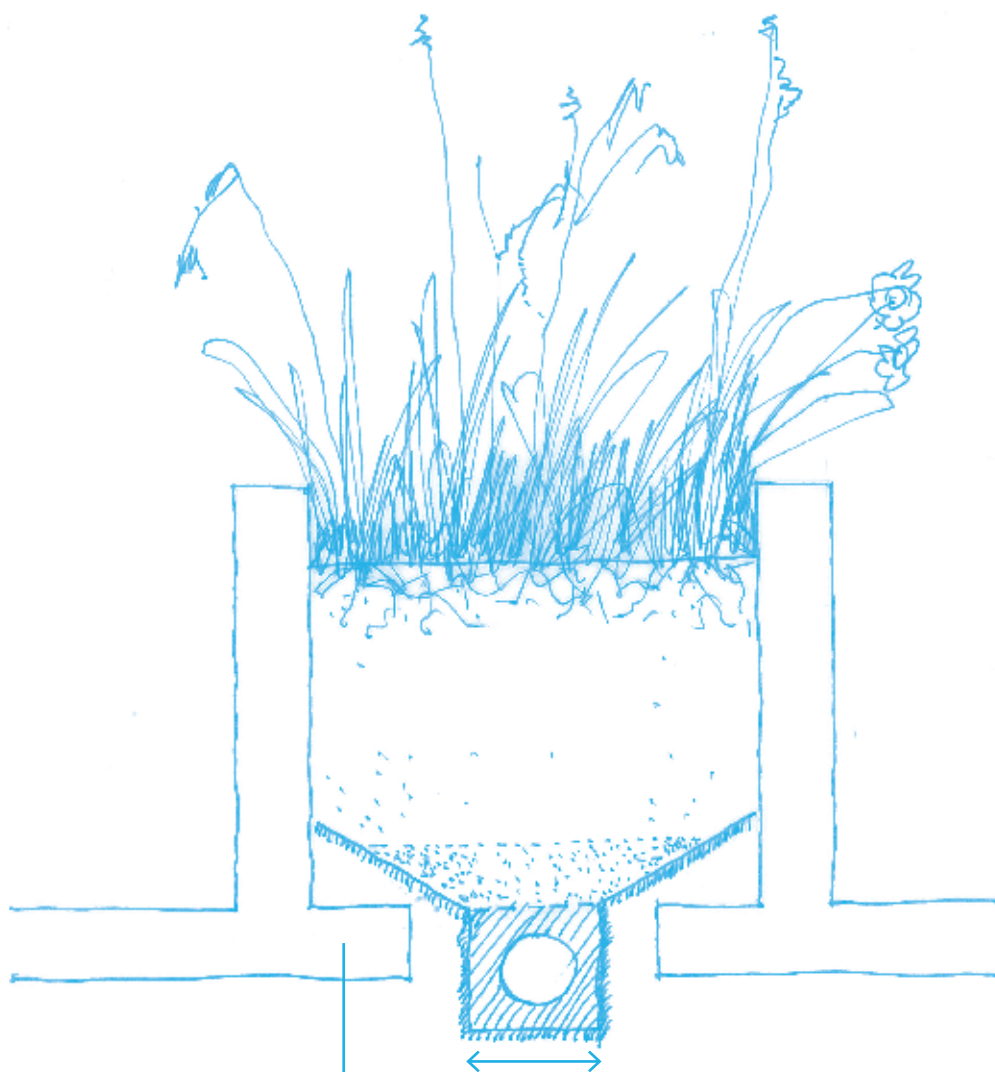
Space Efficient



Resource Efficient



Material Sustainability



intrusion into
drainage layer

reduced width

Pool to Pond Conversion

application: infill residential subdivisions

advantage:

- make use of existing pool
- minimise materials
- water treatment
- aesthetics

note: consider integration of hydraulics / public interaction and associated safety issues

idea (sourced or via): Ku-ring-gai Council - Pool to Pond



Space Efficient



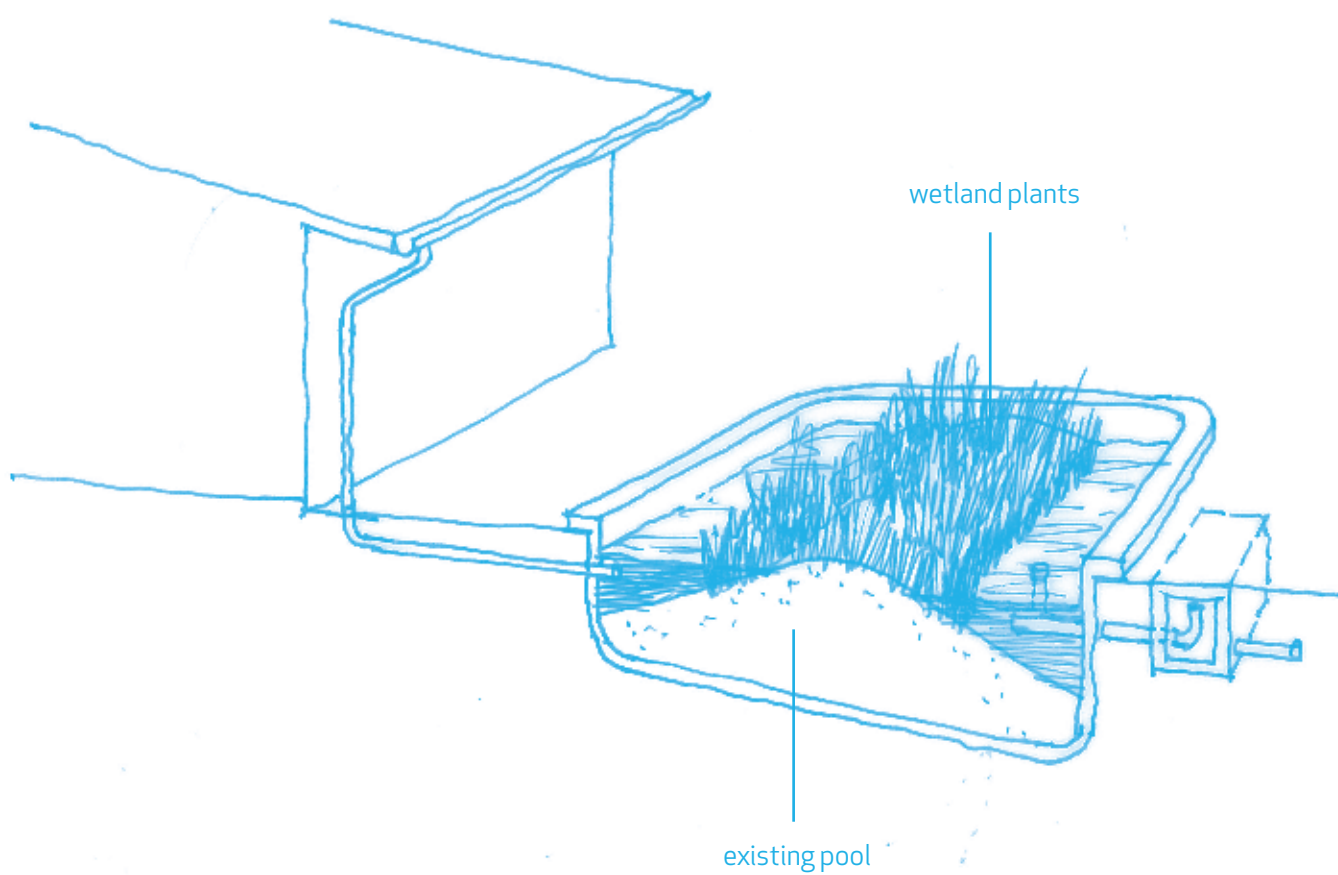
Resource Efficient



Water Quality



Sense of Place



As with most functioning landscapes, WSUD systems require ongoing maintenance for them to be kept in a functional and attractive state. Designs can reduce ongoing maintenance requirements for asset owners by ensuring good initial plant establishment and coverage.

One way this can be achieved is by carefully managing flow distribution and ponding within systems.



Efficient Maintenance

Wet Zone / Dry Zone Planting

application: bioretention systems with intermittent flows causing algae at inlet

advantage:

- prevent algae takeover and plant loss
- no change to basin design

note: plants to be fit for purpose

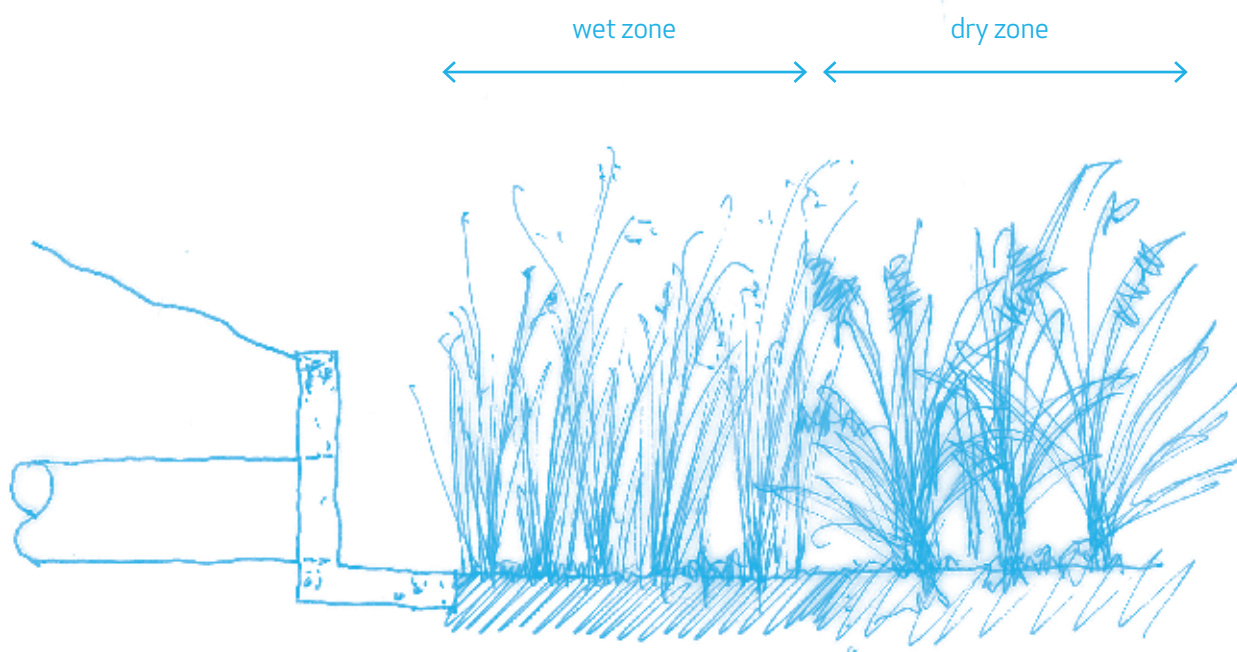
idea (sourced or via): Wiebke Witte - AECOM



Efficient Maintenance



Resource Efficient



melaleuca
quinenervia
juncus usitatus
gahnia seiberiana

ficinia nodosa
lomandra hysterix
themeda triandra

Trickle Flows

application: basins with trickle flows causing algae at inlet

advantage:

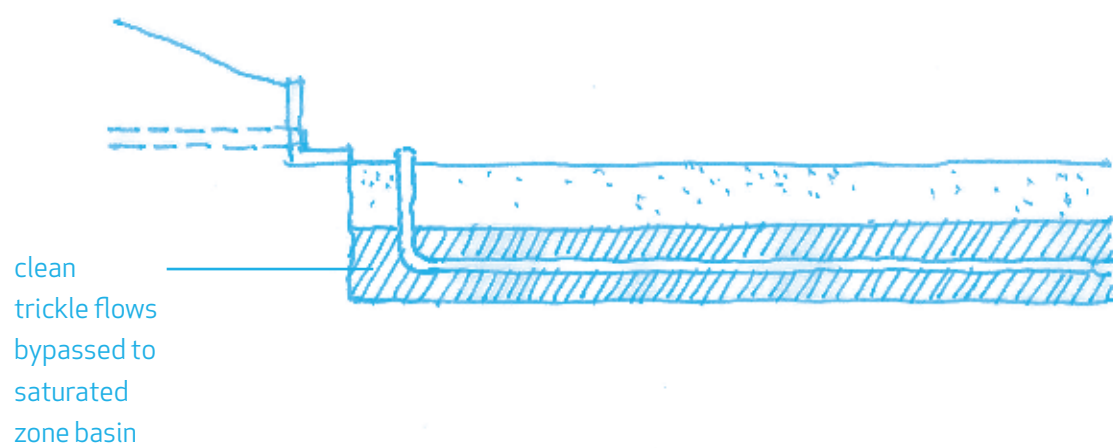
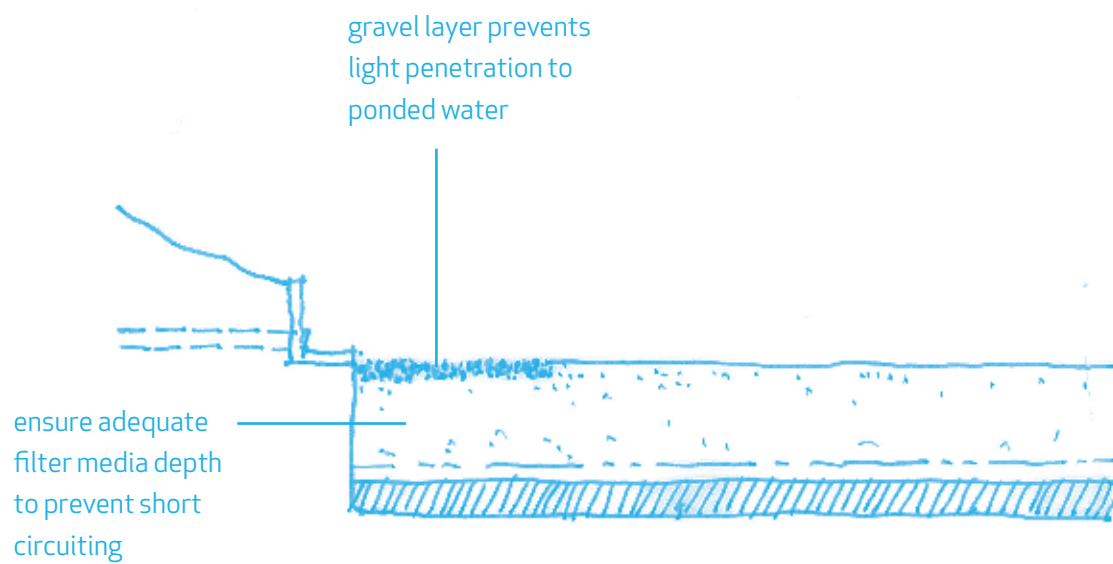
- prevent algae growth and plant loss

note: trickle flows depend on catchment behaviours and can change over time

idea (sourced or via): Courtney Henderson & Sally Boer AECOM



Efficient Maintenance



Pilot Channel

application: large basins with flow distribution issues or moisture gradients

advantage:

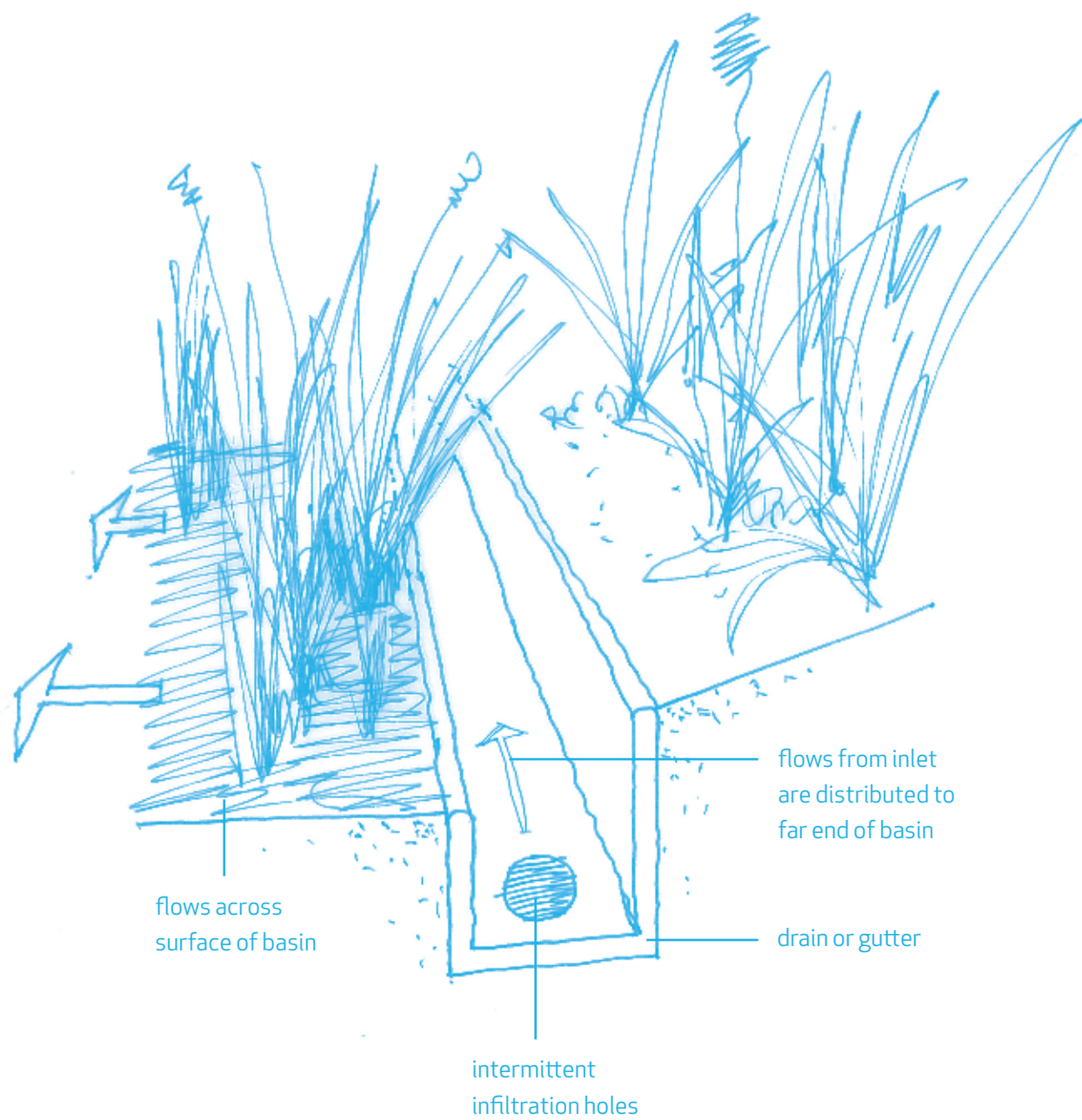
- even distribution of flow
- improve plant health at far end of basin

note: sediment buildup issues

idea (sourced or via): Peter Breen - AECOM



Efficient Maintenance



Temporary Uprstand

application: establishing plants in bioretention systems

advantage:

- provides temporary watertable for establishing plants
- faster plant establishment

note: potential to leach nutrients if left for long period

idea (sourced or via): Shaun Leinster - DesignFlow

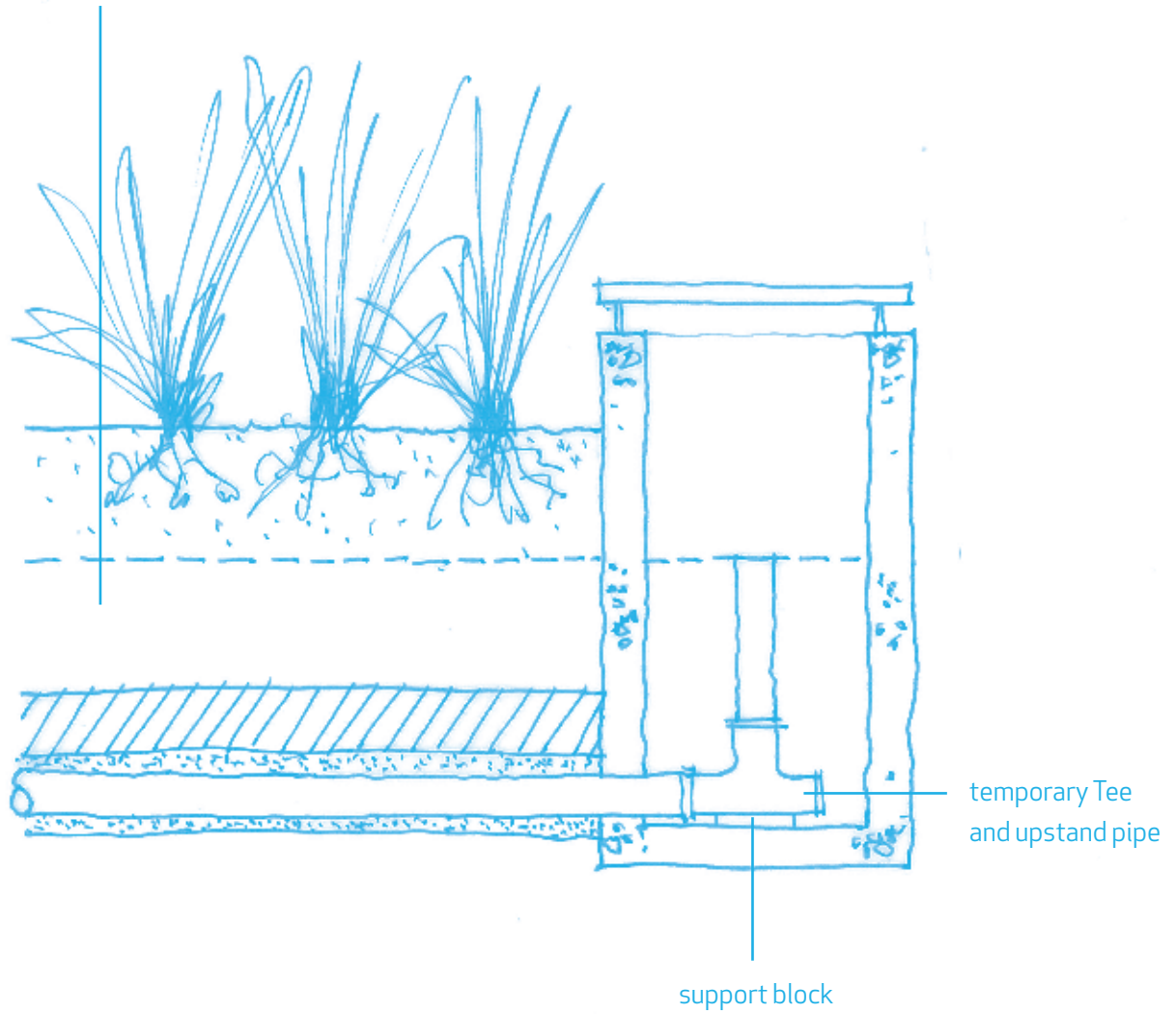


Efficient Maintenance



Visual Impact

temporary
water source for
establishing plants



Surface Clogging

application: bioretention systems with surface blinding

advantage:

- low cost rectification

note: consider use of of grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees / hand removal of weeds
can further break up filter media surface / additional works may be required if
clogging layer is thick

idea (sourced or via): Jack Mullaly – Logan City Council

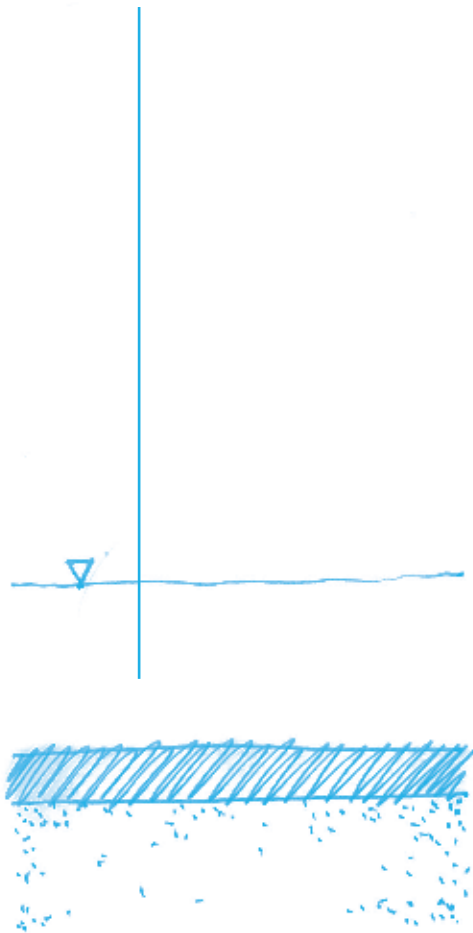


Efficient Maintenance

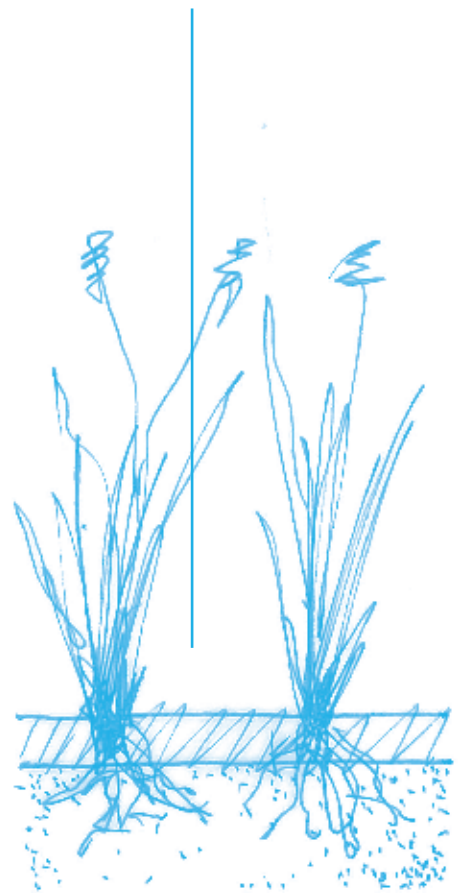


Resource Efficient

surface clogging
causing water to be
permanently ponded -
plants drowned



densely replant with
aquatic and riparian
plants to breakup
surface clogging and
lower water level



Surface Ponding

application: bioretention systems with surface blinding

advantage:

- low cost rectification
- maintain plant health

note: water quality impacts of short circuiting

idea (sourced or via): Jack Mullaly – Logan City Council

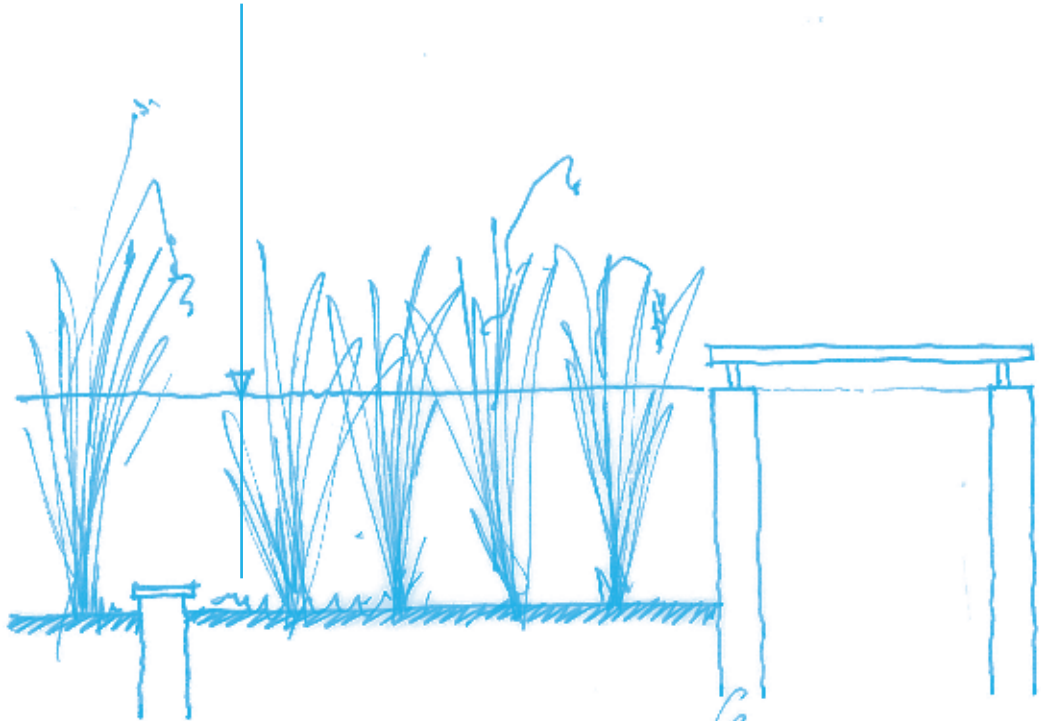


Efficient Maintenance

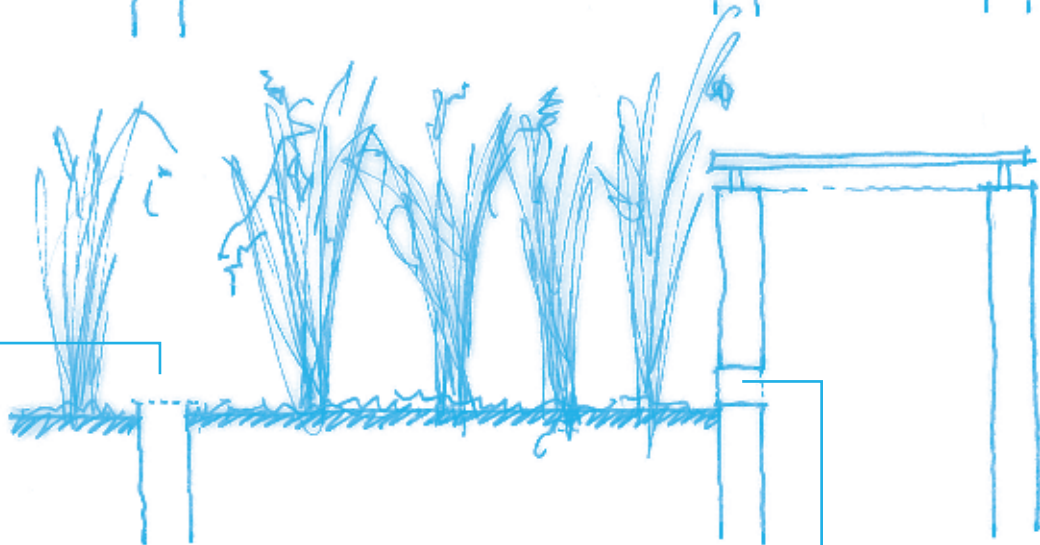


Resource Efficient

surface clogging
causing water to be
permanently ponded



endcap
removed
to flushout
point



OR core drilled
in pit wall

Subsurface Ponding

application: bioretention systems with ponding

advantage:

- low cost rectification

note: short circuiting

idea (sourced or via): Jack Mullaly

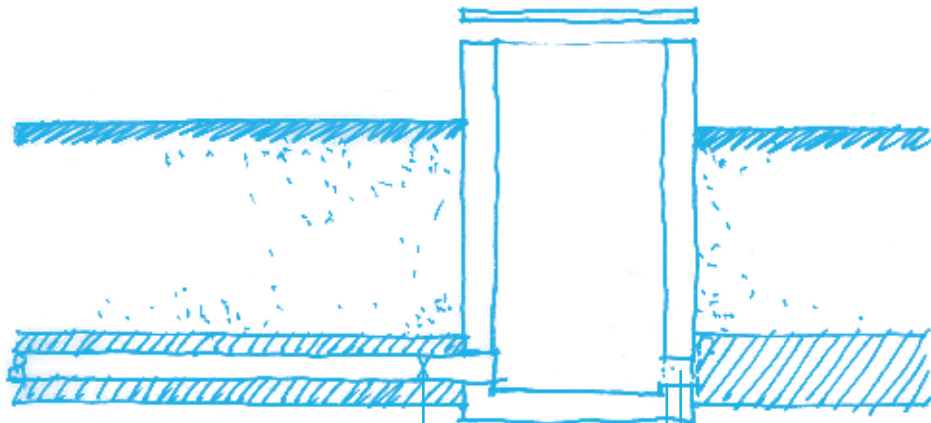
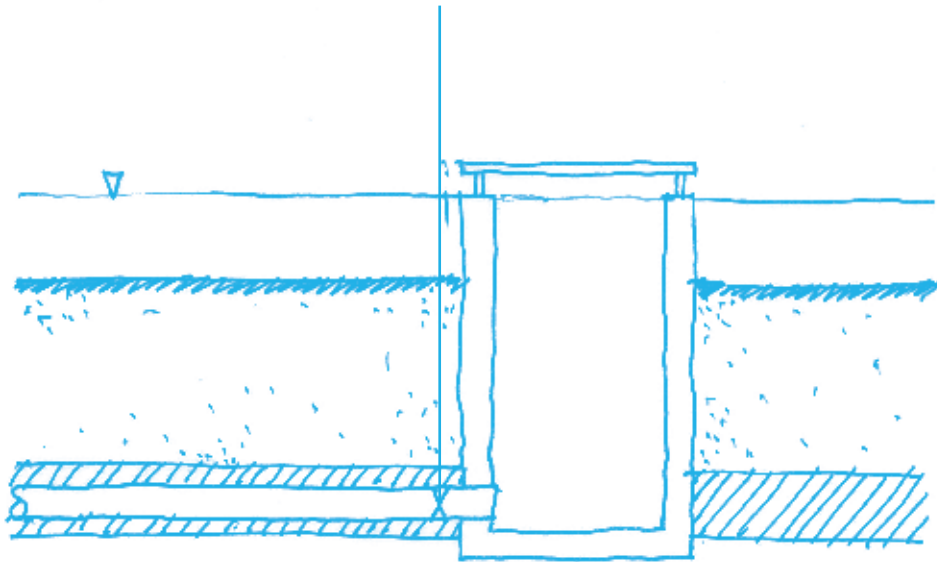


Efficient Maintenance



Resource Efficient

pipe blockage
causing water to be
permanently ponded



pipe blockage

wire mesh

drill hole in pit wall

In our efforts to move towards long-term sustainability, our choice of materials needs to consider environmental impact, renewability and energy inputs.



Material Sustainability

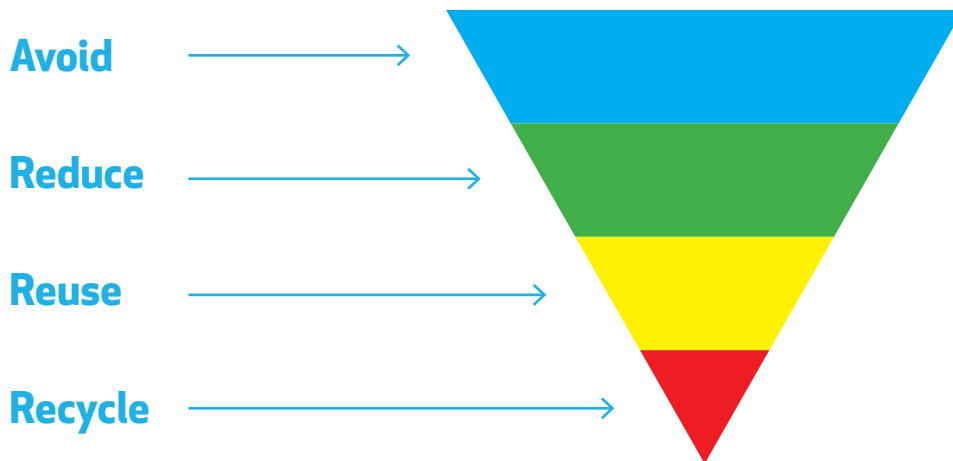
Material Sustainability

Materials selection is often a balance of competing benefits and disadvantages as well as consideration of costs and functionality. Sustainable design should seek to protect receiving ecosystems while reducing regional water demands for irrigation. The sourcing of locally available filter media and plant species is also of importance to reduce transportation and support local provenance species.



Material Sustainability

Broad principles for sustainable selection of materials are outlined below:



Low impact

- low energy / carbon
- local source
- extraction damage minimised
- non-renewables avoided

Durability – appropriate length of lifecycle

Reasonable costs, functionality and maintenance requirements

Item	Sustainable Options
Earthworks	Reduce – modify cell size, shape and orientation to minimise earthworks volume (e.g. align long axis of basin parallel with contours) Reduce import / export - balance earthworks on site to avoid extra cut and fill Low impact – limit area of disturbance Low impact – avoid exposure of PASS, AASS and sodic soils
Drainage aggregate	Low impact – avoid extraction from rivers or creeks Durability – non degrading Substitution – use washed recycled concrete
Filter media	Local sourcing Low impact extraction Durability – non degrading
Transition layer	Avoid – through careful selection of drainage and filtermedia satisfying the bridging criteria Local sourcing Low impact extraction Substitution – use an appropriate recycled crushed glass product
Underdrainage pipes	Avoid – can an infiltration basin be used? Reuse – offcuts, abandoned pipes Recycle – use recycled plastic
Inlet / outlet pipes	Reduce – encourage upstream infiltration (where appropriate) to reduce pipe size Reduce – optimise hydraulics to reduce pipe size, use at-source bioretention on flat sites Low carbon – low embodied energy for plastic pipes Low carbon – use fly ash cement for RCP
Topsoil for batters	Reuse – Save and reuse topsoil layer from site Local sourcing – if insitu soil not suitable Low impact – free of weeds / fireants

Item	Sustainable Options
Liner	Avoid – can this be eliminated from the design Substitute – can insitu clay be used instead of plastic
Concrete Weirs	Reduce – optimise hydraulics to reduce weir length Substitute – can rock protection be used instead Substitute – low carbon fly ash cement
Concrete Pits	Reduce – optimise hydraulics to reduce pit size Substitute – low carbon fly ash cement
Headwalls	Substitute – can rock armouring be used instead? Substitute – low carbon fly ash cement or recycled plastic
Sediment forebay	Avoid or reduce – through careful design Substitute – low carbon fly ash cement
Access Tracks	Reduce – through careful design Substitute – use reinforced turf / garden (gravel base + topsoil + low groundcover)
Retaining Walls	Avoid – through careful design Substitute – use boulder walls, low impact extraction, local sourcing Substitute – use low carbon fly ash cement
Rock Protection	Avoid – can velocities be reduced to avoid need? Low impact – Avoid extraction from rivers or creeks Avoid material that could pollute or change the pH of the water (e.g. AMD)
Plants	Local provenance – grown from local seed by local growers Organic – grown without pesticides and artificial fertilizers Durability – use hardy plants to limit dieoff and replanting Multiuse – carbon sequestration, productive landscapes, biodiverse, fauna friendly
Irrigation Water	Avoid – timing of establishment period with seasonal rain Avoid – use drought tolerant plant species Substitute - use suitable alternative water source Low impact – minimise release of pollutants to environment

Filter Media Layering

application: alternatives to standard profile

advantage:

- less resource consumption
- reduce filter media costs

Alternative Profile 1

note: use only if hydraulic conductivity (HC) unaffected & plants can completely establish (root depth may be shortened)

idea (sourced or via): Southern Pacific Sands

Alternative Profile 2

note: use only if bridging criteria is satisfied

idea (sourced or via): River Sands

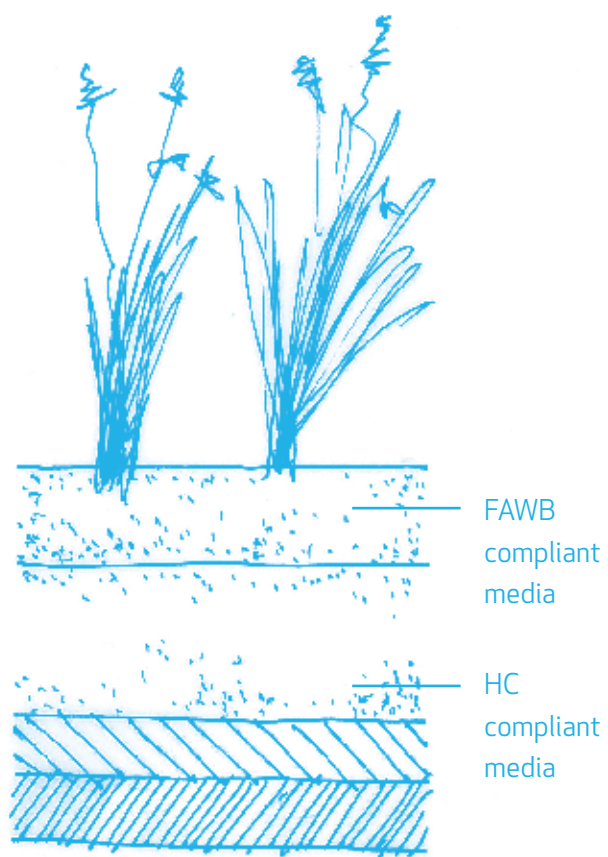


Material Sustainability

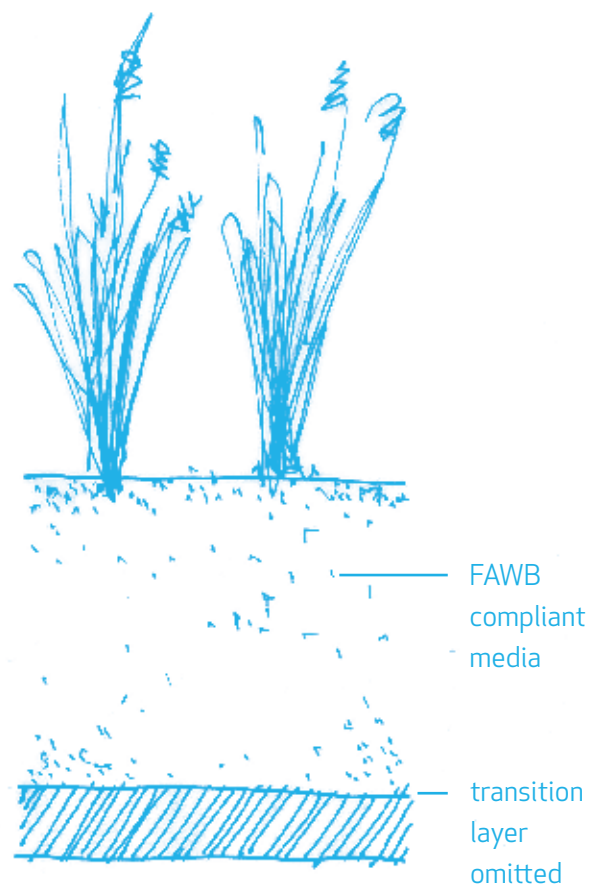


Resource Efficient

ALTERNATIVE PROFILE 1



ALTERNATIVE PROFILE 2



Filter Media Additives

application: to enhance filter media properties

advantage:

- improved plant establishment

idea (sourced or via): Sally Boer - E2Designlab and Simon Leake - SESL



Material Sustainability

Low nutrient organic matter:

- Composted garden waste
- Composted pine bark
- Coconut coir
- Composted wood chip fines
- Sugar cane bagasse
- Composted saw dust

Mineral additives:

- Diatomaceous earth
- Zeolites
- Scoria
- Perlite
- Power station ash
- Crushed brick and tile

Other additives to support plant establishment:

- Water retention polymers (water holding crystals)
(1-2% by weight)
- Slow release fertiliser (10g/plant)
- Silica, calcined clay and cellulose based water holding agents.

How Does Your System Rate?

Discover the new Living Waterways scoring system at www.waterbydesign.com.au

Submit your own ideas at info@waterbydesign.com.au

