

A scenic view of Van Cortlandt Lake, featuring a large tree on the left, a rocky shoreline, and a dense forest in the background. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery.

# Living Shoreline Water Machine: Van Cortlandt Lake

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# Site Location



Overview  
Landscape  
Design:

RGA Trenches = 50%  
void space

400 ft of RGA run + 4 ft  
average depth + 5 ft  
average width =  
8,000 cu ft

Divided by 50% =  
4,000 cu ft water

4" rainstorm =  
4,000 cu ft water

(This is JUST the  
trenches' capacity!)

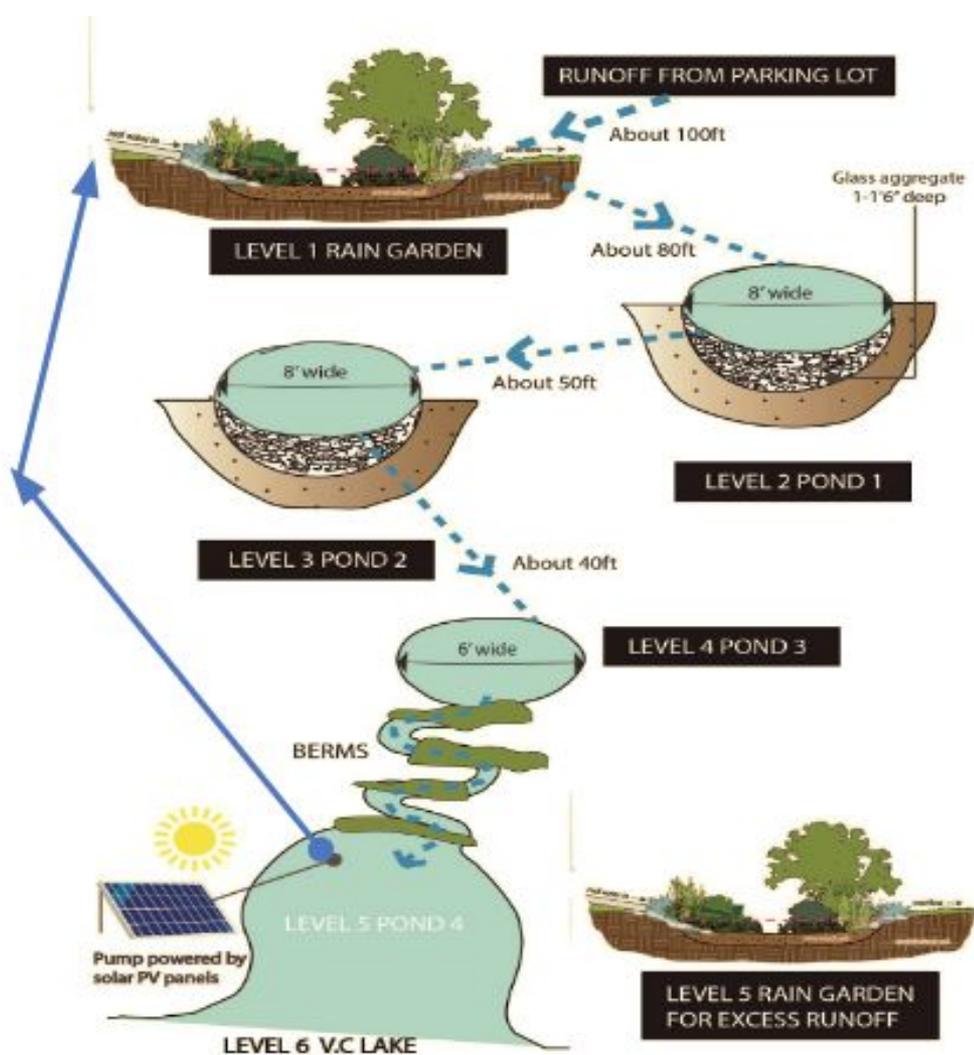


## Water Flow through Pond Arrangement:

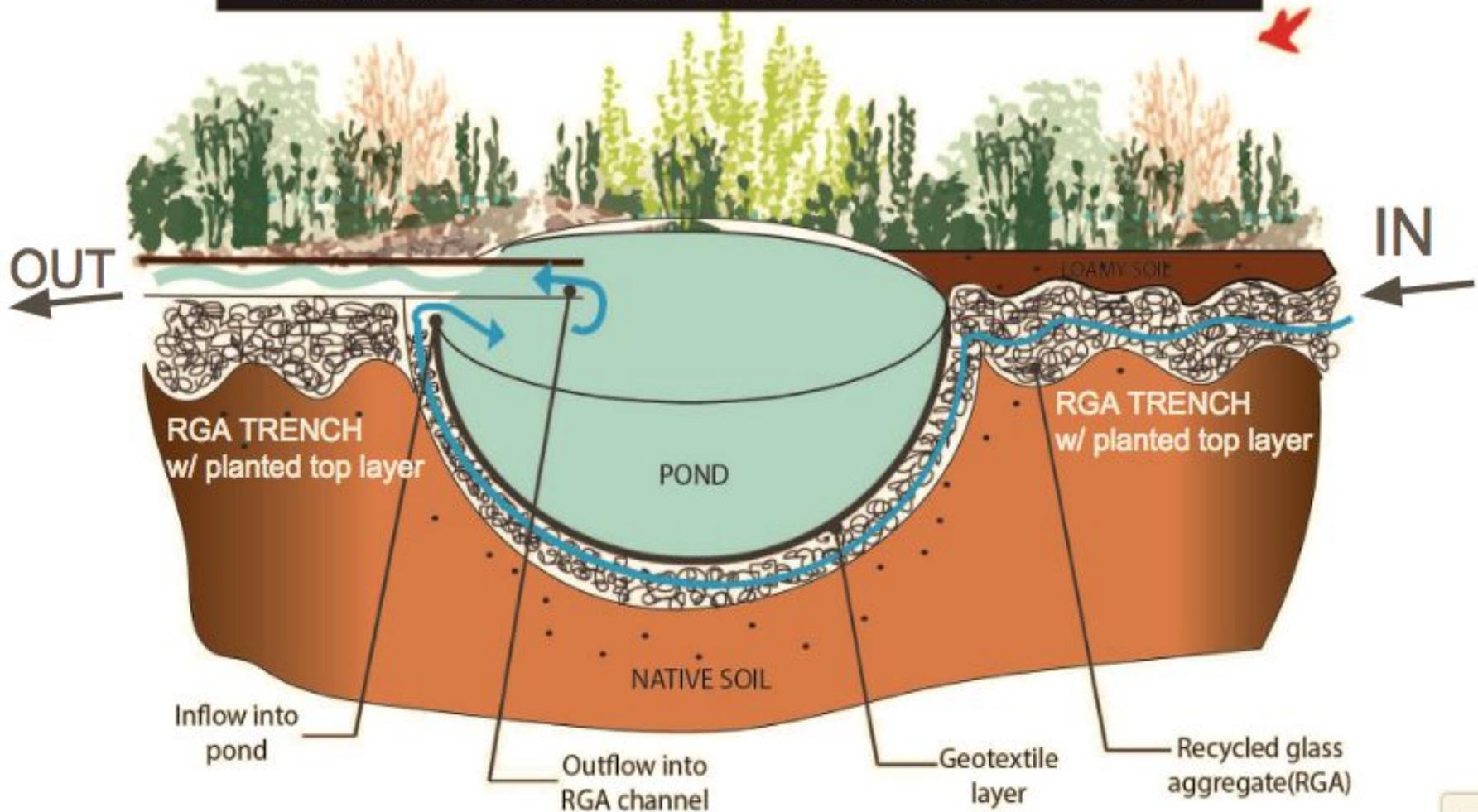
RGA trenches move water in an undulating fashion, starting from the catchment from parking lot run-off occurring in rain garden 1

Water filters through trenches and ponds to reach pond 3. Water is then slowly forced through small berm walls and wetland plants for maximized aeration.

Water is then pumped through solar pump back to rain garden 1



# MAXIMIZED SURFACE AREA FOR WATER FILTRATION

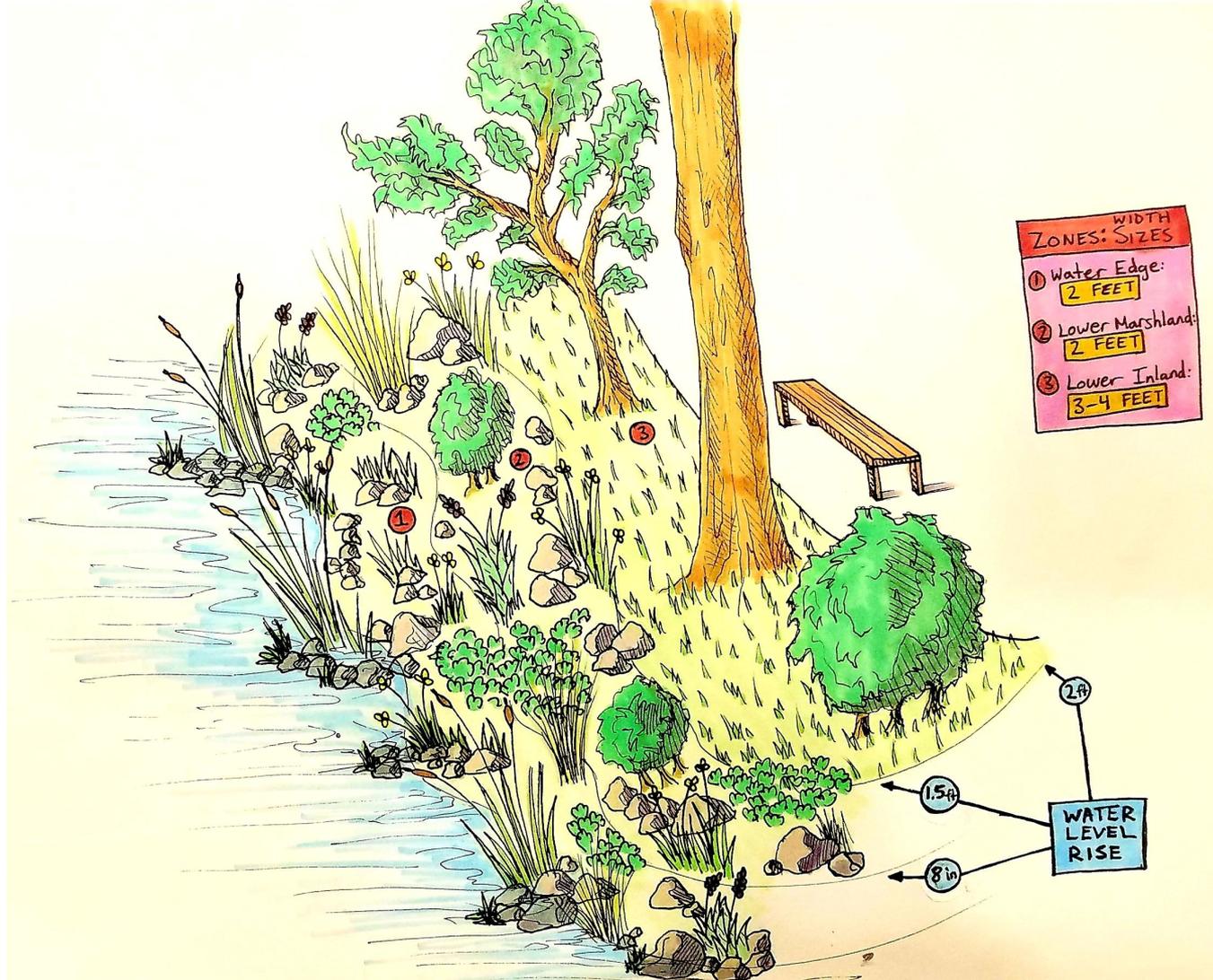


# Lake Edge Marshland Detail:

Goal:  
Create a living shoreline  
with marsh plant species:  
Yellow Iris ; Blue Flag ; Cattails ;  
Sedges ; Rushes ; Button Rush ;  
Red stem & Red Bud Dogwood ;  
Elderwood ; Arrowhead ; Pickerel  
Weed ; Ferns ; & Medium-sized  
stones

3 Zones:  
Water Edge = 2 ft W  
Lower Marshland = 2 ft W  
Lower Inland = 3-4 ft W

Water Rise:  
End of Zone 1 = 6-8 in  
End of Zone 2 = 1'5" in  
End of Zone 3 = 2 ft

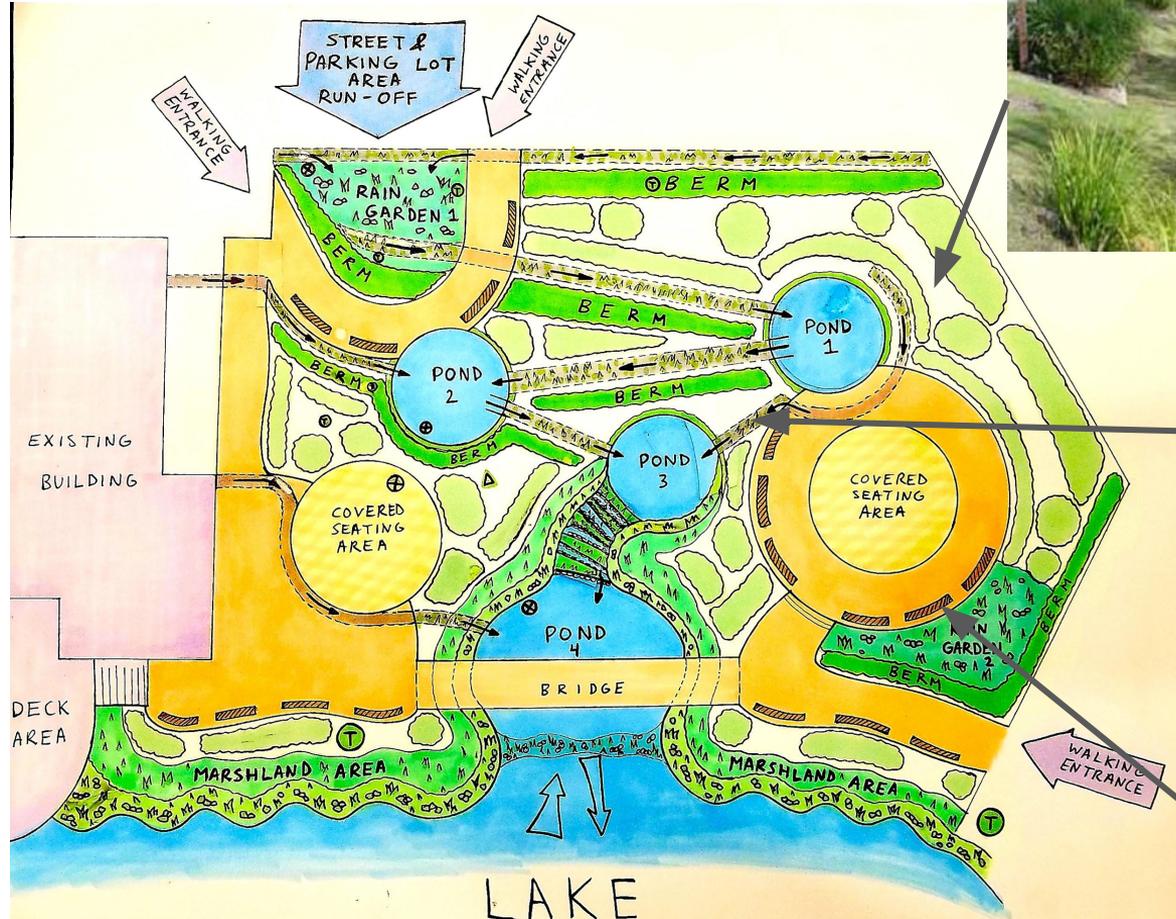


# Animal Habitat Refugium:

Ponds:  
Refugium for frogs, muscles, salamanders, and other important aquatic life.

Marshland Areas:  
Refugium for frogs, salamanders, and water species to thrive in.

Remaining vegetation:  
Haven for birds, butterflies, and small mammals



# Van Cortlandt Lake Living Shoreline Vision:

## Potential: **99% Water Catchment**

This system has the potential to not only filter any amount of water that would go through this space, but also to manage excess nutrient run-off control.

At the same time, we have an opportunity to create a new model for what could be done along any body of water.

Our hope is to prove that, even with a small space to work with, by cleverly creating void space and increasing the distance that water travels through the soil, RGA, and root systems, we can achieve an powerful and efficient sustainable living water machine.



**LET'S GREEN THE CITY  
TOGETHER!**