RIVERSMART PERC TEST WORKSHEET

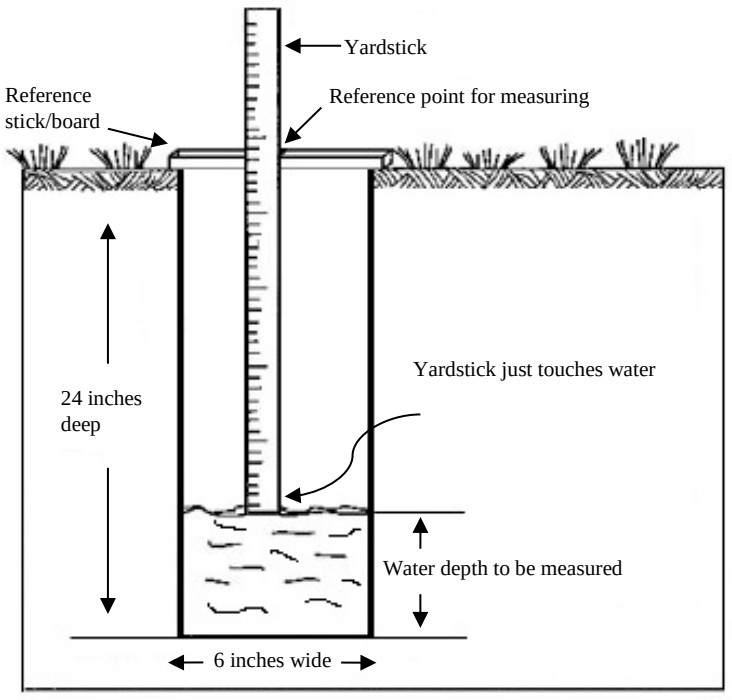
Name: _____ Address: _____

Overview: A percolation test, or perc test, determines how quickly water drains from the soil at a project site. If the soil does not drain within 36 hours, the project will not function properly and may lead to flooding on the property. Please follow steps 1-5 and fill out the *Perc Test Table* below. Avoid doing the perc test when raining. If the entire yard is paved, the test should be conducted as close to the project site as possible.

Materials Needed:

- Digging tool (shovel or post-hole digger)
- Measuring tool (yard stick/ruler & reference stick)
- Water source (hose or bucket of water)
- Data collection tools (this worksheet & a pencil)

Caution: Make sure you know where utilities are before you start digging! Call Ms. Utility within 48 hours of digging to be sure.



Step 1: Dig a hole that is 24 inches deep and 6 inches wide in the area where the project will be installed.

Step 2: Fill up the hole with 12 inches of water and let it drain completely.

Step 3: Within 12 hours of the first fill, fill the hole again with 12 inches of water. Use the yardstick and reference stick/board to measure the water height every hour for 6 hours and record results in table.

Step 4: Follow the directions in the Perc Test Table to calculate the infiltration rate.

Step 5: Check the next day to make sure that the second filling has drained within 24-36 hours. An optimal infiltration rate is 1.2 inches per hour and minimum acceptable infiltration rate is .3 inches per hour – **if the hole has not drained within 36 hours a rain garden or permeable paver project is not possible.**

PERC TEST TABLE

	Elapsed Time (hours)	Depth of Water (inches)	Total Change in Water Level (inches)	Percolation Rate (inches per hour)
First Fill	0	12	12 inches – water depth at hour 6: _____	Total change in water level ÷ 6 hours: _____
Second Fill	1			
:	2			
:	3			
:	4			
:	5			
:	6			
:	24		Water drained completely after : _____ hours	

SEND COMPLETED WORKSHEET AND QUESTIONS TO:
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