

Downspout Disconnection

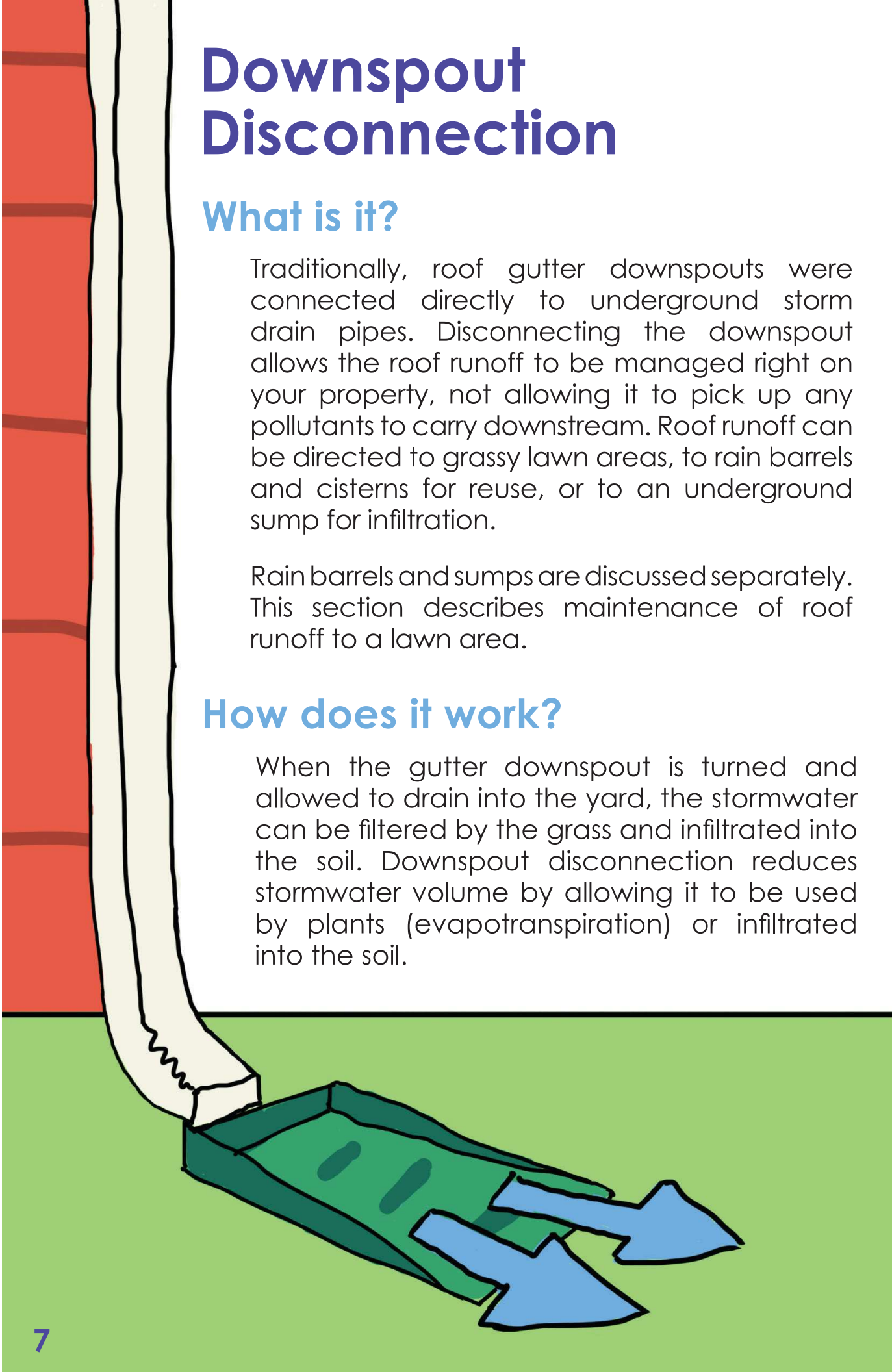
What is it?

Traditionally, roof gutter downspouts were connected directly to underground storm drain pipes. Disconnecting the downspout allows the roof runoff to be managed right on your property, not allowing it to pick up any pollutants to carry downstream. Roof runoff can be directed to grassy lawn areas, to rain barrels and cisterns for reuse, or to an underground sump for infiltration.

Rain barrels and sumps are discussed separately. This section describes maintenance of roof runoff to a lawn area.

How does it work?

When the gutter downspout is turned and allowed to drain into the yard, the stormwater can be filtered by the grass and infiltrated into the soil. Downspout disconnection reduces stormwater volume by allowing it to be used by plants (evapotranspiration) or infiltrated into the soil.



How does a Homeowner maintain it?

Regularly:

- Maintenance for a downspout draining to a lawn area is generally part of the typical yard maintenance.
- Mow the lawn in this area at the same time interval that the rest of the yard is mowed.
- Check for bare spots and reseed if needed.

Additional Information:

- 💧 A splash guard or small pile of rocks may be needed at the location where the water leaves the drain to slow the water down and prevent erosion.
- 💧 The downspout could be directed to a rain garden rather than the lawn, in which case the Rain Garden maintenance (page 9) should be followed.

