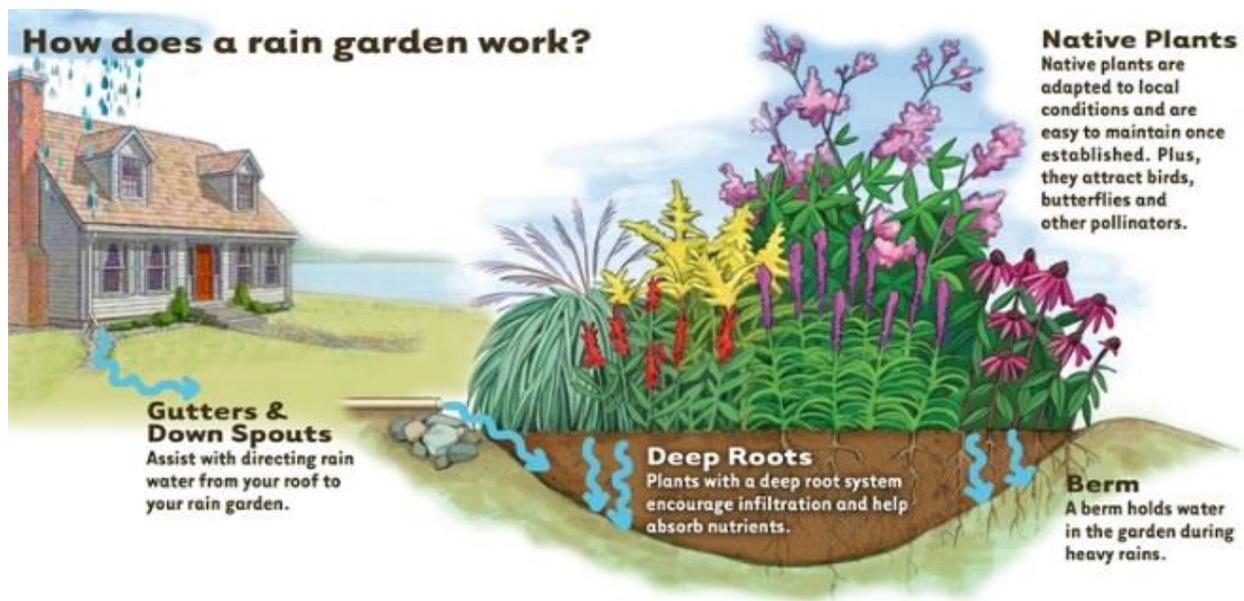


## What is a Rain Garden?

You may have heard the term rain garden recently and wondered what it meant. At first, you may have thought that a rain garden has little to do with plants and more to do with precipitation.

Simply, a rain garden is a shallow depression in the earth, landscaped with permeable soil and hardy grasses, shrubs, or trees and covered by a thin layer of mulch. Rain gardens collect the storm-water runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and driveways, and allow it to percolate into the ground instead of draining into storm drains or waterways. In previous studies, rain gardens—which are also known as bioretention facilities.



## What are the benefits?

- 💧 Help keep water clean by filtering storm water runoff before it enters local waterways.
- 💧 Help alleviate problems associated with flooding & drainage.
- 💧 Enhance the beauty of individual yards & communities.
- 💧 Provide habitat & food for wildlife including birds & butterflies.
- 💧 Recharge the ground water supply.

## Why do we need Rain Gardens?

The storm-water runoff from a house roof or a parking lot may not seem like a major threat to water quality. Of all the water used by the public during the summer months, about 30% of it is for outdoor use. The majority of it is for lawn care and landscaping. People don't usually think of pollution as something coming from their homes. Generally pollution is thought of as coming from a factory or a



sewage treatment plant, dumping directly into a river. In urbanized areas, pollutants in runoff may include nitrogen and phosphorus compounds from atmospheric deposition and fertilizers, as well as metals, oils, and other particulate matter. The volume and velocity of runoff from a heavy rain can also overwhelm urban storm drain systems. According to the U.S. EPA, more than half of the rainwater that falls on a typical city block, one with 75% or more impervious cover, will leave as runoff.

## How do I create a Raingarden?

When planning a Rain garden, gather as much information as possible through resources on the internet, library and local garden centers. A good resource is "The Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners". This is a free publication, available at the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Please call for availability. 740-373-7113 x 129. The Washington SWCD is located at 21330 SR 676 Ste. E, Marietta, OH 45750. You may also view this entire publication at [www.ohioprairienursery.com/resources/rain-garden-manual](http://www.ohioprairienursery.com/resources/rain-garden-manual)

*Information used in this article is from the website:*  
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