

Here are some great
NATIVE PLANT OPTIONS
to check out when you are
planning your rain garden!

FLOWERING PLANTS



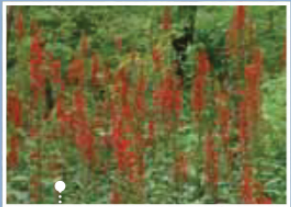
North Creek Nurseries

Blueflag Iris
(*Iris versicolor*)



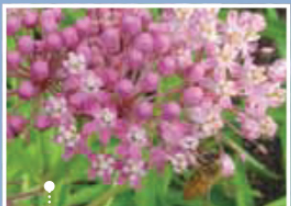
North Creek Nurseries

Great Blue Lobelia
(*Lobelia siphilitica*)



North Creek Nurseries

Cardinal Flower
(*Lobelia cardinalis*)



Melinda Zoehrer

Swamp Milkweed
(*Asclepias incarnata*)

Learn More at:

[www.NanticokeRiver.org/
Restoration/Rain-Gardens](http://www.NanticokeRiver.org/Restoration/Rain-Gardens)



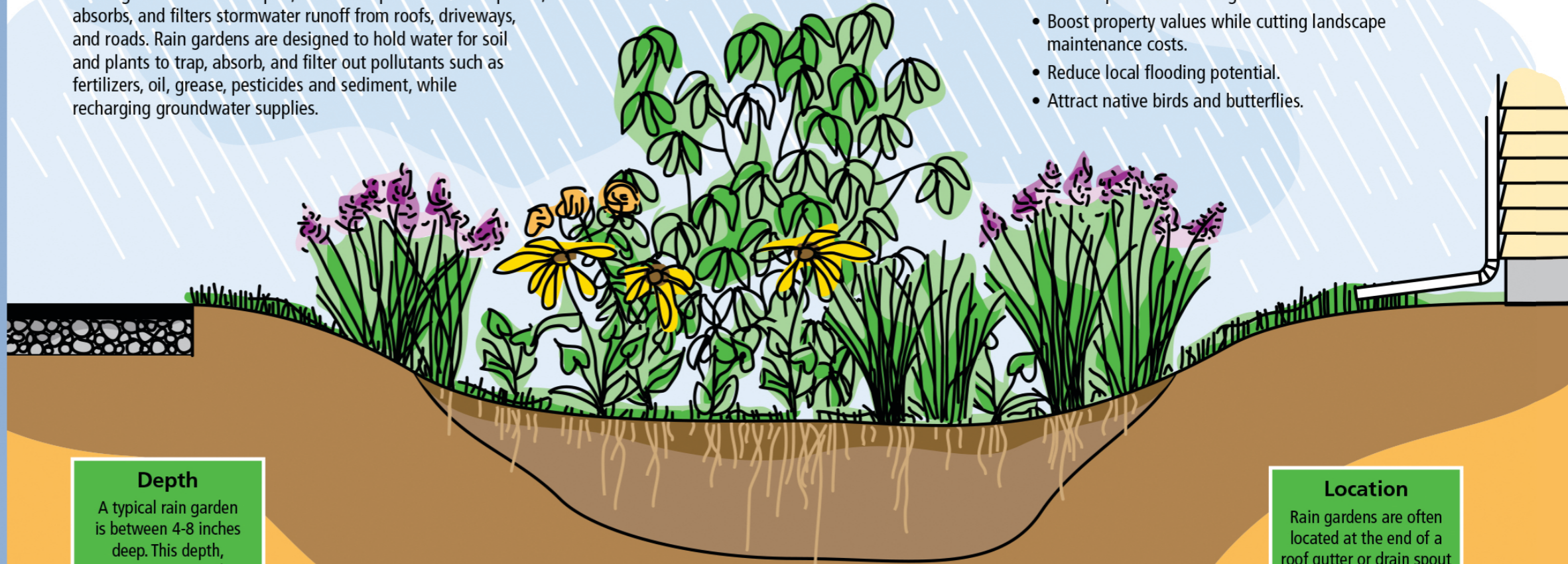
Rain Gardens Have Many Benefits

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that captures, absorbs, and filters stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways, and roads. Rain gardens are designed to hold water for soil and plants to trap, absorb, and filter out pollutants such as fertilizers, oil, grease, pesticides and sediment, while recharging groundwater supplies.

Rain Gardens Help:

- Reduce pollution entering our waters.
- Boost property values while cutting landscape maintenance costs.
- Reduce local flooding potential.
- Attract native birds and butterflies.



Depth

A typical rain garden is between 4-8 inches deep. This depth, proportionate to the surface area that generates stormwater runoff, helps ensure that water soaks back into the ground instead of ponding.

Plant Choices

Choose native plants based on need for light and moisture. Native plants live longer and are more tolerant of local weather and soil conditions!

Soil

A good soil mix for a rain garden is 60% sand, 20% compost and 20% topsoil.

Size

A rain garden is typically 5-10% the size of the surface area (ex. rooftop, driveway, walkway) that generates stormwater runoff.

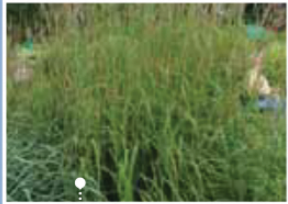
Location

Rain gardens are often located at the end of a roof gutter or drain spout as a buffer between the lawn and the street.

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GRASSES

Switchgrass
(*Panicum virgatum*)



North Creek Nurseries

Big Bluestem
(*Andropogon gerardii*)

Broomsedge
(*Andropogon virginicus*)

Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*)



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Soft Rush
(*Juncus effusus*)

SHRUBS

Buttonbush
(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Silky Dogwood
(*Cornus amomum*)



John Frett

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

Spicebush
(*Lindera benzoin*)

Arrowwood Viburnum
(*Viburnum dentatum*)

Our Polluted Waters

Our waterways are not as clean as they once were due to water pollution such as stormwater runoff. Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not quickly soak into the ground. Stormwater runs from rooftops, over driveways, sidewalks and lawns collecting and carrying pollutants such as dirt, pet waste, oil and grease, pesticides, fertilizers, leaves, and litter into our waterways.

Houses and neighborhoods that are not next to a stream or lake can still contribute to the problem. Storm drains found in most local neighborhoods are designed to move runoff from your neighborhood to the nearest body of water. While many people believe otherwise, stormwater is not filtered in wastewater treatment plants before entering streams and rivers. Storm drains carry UNFILTERED and UNTREATED water directly into our local rivers and streams. Lots of pollution from stormwater runoff can make our waterways very unhealthy for people, plants and animals.



Rain Gardens are a great way to help make your yard more environmentally-friendly!

They trap pollution and sediment as well as help recharge groundwater aquifers that many places use as drinking water.

When you use native plants in your garden you can attract birds and butterflies while helping to save pollinators. Pollinators, like bees, bats, and hummingbirds, use native plants for food and shelter.

Rain gardens are NOT water gardens or wetlands. They are dry most of the time and only designed to hold water for 48 hours while it soaks into the ground.

Keep our water and communities healthy by putting a beautiful rain garden in your yard!

TO FIND OUT MORE:

Visit www.NanticokeRiver.org/Restoration/Rain-Gardens
or
DNREC.Delaware.gov



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Rain Gardens

