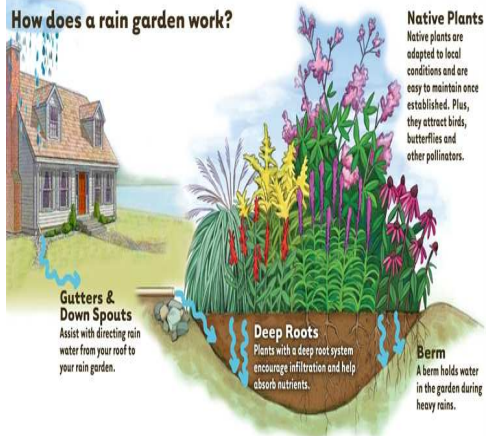


What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is an easy and effective tool that you can use to help reduce stormwater runoff on your property. The gardens are placed on property to intercept stormwater runoff until it can be absorbed into the ground.

- A rain garden is designed to serve as a “bowl” to collect stormwater from your property.
- The water is able to slowly infiltrate into the underlying soil.

How does a rain garden work?

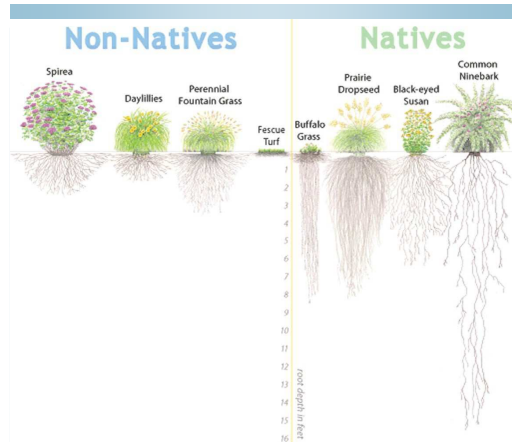


Native Plants
Native plants are adapted to local conditions and are easy to maintain once established. Plus, they attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

Gutters & Down Spouts
Assist with directing rain water from your roof to your rain garden.

Deep Roots
Plants with a deep root system encourage infiltration and help absorb nutrients.

Berm
A berm holds water in the garden during heavy rains.



The importance of Non-Native vs. Native Plants:

1. Native plants are the best option for rain gardens because they need little maintenance once established.
2. Native Plants develop deeper root systems and can absorb more water than non –native plants.
2. Native plants attract birds, butterflies, and many other species.

For Additional Information Contact:

Lower Allen Township

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Camp Hill, PA 17011
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Rebecca Davis—MS4 Coordinator
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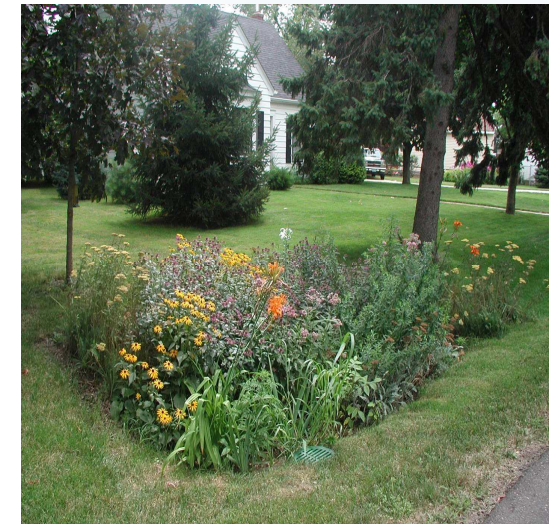
Information provided by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay - www.stormwater.allinaceforthebay.org



Lower Allen Township

A Township of the First Class

A Residential Guide for Constructing Your Own Raingarden



Anatomy of a Rain Garden

A rain garden can be summarized in three main components: **Plants, Soils, and Cover.**

Plants: Select native plants for the edge of the rain garden. Consider sun, partial sun, shade. The plants should be aesthetically pleasing.



Soils: Loose soils that offer filtration and allow easy root growth. Amend soils if necessary - 50-60% Sand, 20-30% topsoil, 20-30% compost.



Cover: (gravel or mulch) - offers soil erosion control. Large stones can be used for edge reinforcement during storms.



Rain Gardens are made up of a bowl like depression in the ground. The downhill side has a raised berm of soil to allow water to sit in the garden and infiltrate. The shape is typically similar to a kidney bean to allow a wide sheet flow of runoff to enter the garden.

Build it Yourself

Installing a rain garden on your property is something that most homeowners can do all by themselves. The steps below outline the process.

1. **Choose Your Location:** The rain garden must be in a place that can collect runoff from as much impervious area as possible. It should be located at least 5'-15' away from your home and where water naturally drains but does not pond.
2. **Call PA One Call (811)** prior to digging to make sure the site is clear of underground utilities.
3. **Conduct a soil infiltration test*:** Without proper infiltration your rain garden may turn into a pond. This test will determine the proper location for your rain garden.
4. **Sizing the Garden*:** The surface area should be based on the contributing drainage area to the rain garden.



Build It Yourself (cont.)

5. **Excavate the rain garden:** Your rain garden depth will be between 18"-36", with 6" ponding area.
6. **Fill the rain garden with soil media mix.** Limited clay content is very important. The mix should consist of 50% sand, 25% topsoil, and 25% compost.
7. **Plant and Mulch:** Choose native plants that will need little maintenance when established.
8. **Maintenance:** Rain gardens will require weeding, watering when there are dry conditions, and raking mulch.

*Additional information regarding conducting infiltration tests and rain garden sizing can be found on the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay website: www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org

