

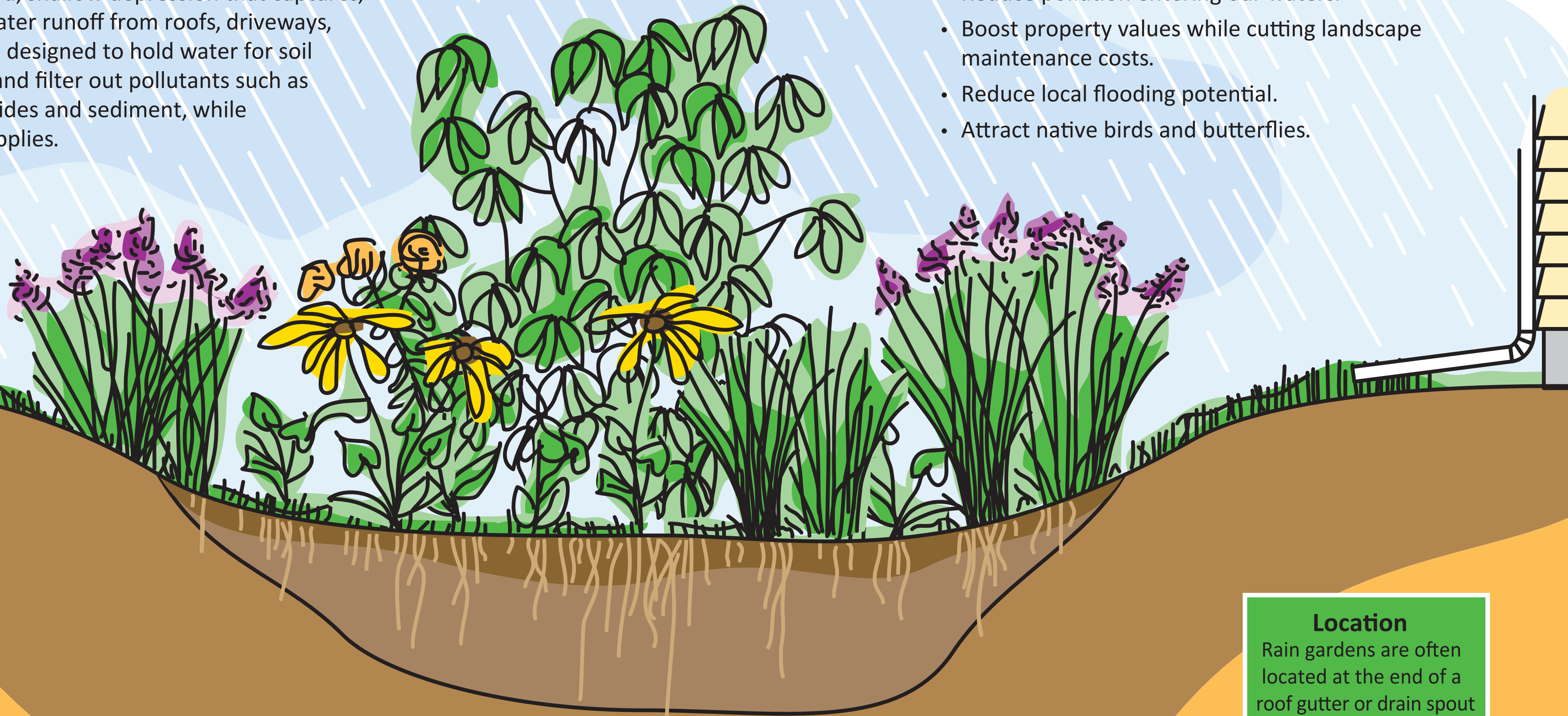
Rain Gardens Have Many Benefits

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

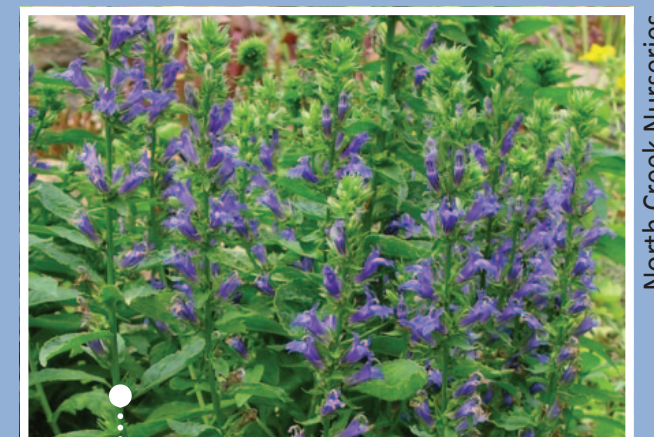
Rain gardens are often located at the end of a roof gutter or drain spout as a buffer between the lawn and the street.

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

FLOWERING PLANTS



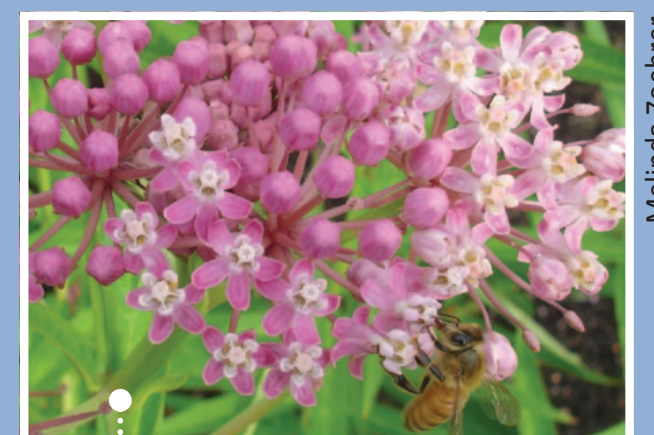
Blueflag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)



Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)



Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)



Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

For more information on rain gardens, native plants, and wildlife habitat, contact your local cooperative extension.

This sign and rain garden were installed by the Longswamp Township Environmental Advisory Council and has been funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 federal Clean Water Act grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, administered by the US Environment Protection Agency.

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North Creek Nurseries

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Melinda Zoehrer