

Reasons to Plant a Rain Garden

Beautify your yard. With their diversity of colorful native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees, rain gardens enhance the beauty of our waterfront and showcase our pride in our Chesapeake Bay heritage—but they are more than just visually appealing. They also...

Decrease water pollution. One of our major environmental problems is stormwater runoff—the water that flows over impervious surfaces (buildings, roads, etc.) directly into a creek. This water carries pollutants like car oil, sediment, and fertilizers that destroy our creeks and threaten our health.

By collecting some of this water in your rain garden, you can help filter out some of the pollutants and prevent them from reaching our creeks and the Bay. Cleaner water is safer and healthier for you and your family!

Require less watering, weeding, and fertilizing than other gardens. An established rain garden of native plants needs little maintenance. Native plants are adapted to Maryland's climate, so they can handle our seasonal droughts with little watering and don't need as much fertilizer to grow in Maryland soils. Less fertilizer also means less nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

Support native wildlife and attract butterflies. Rain gardens provide the preferred

habitat for our native wildlife, particularly the birds and beneficial insects that pollinate our flowers and trees.



"See Your Feets In Our Creeks"

The Clear Creeks Project is a grant-funded, citizen-based initiative that helps answer a community desire to restore the water quality of the rivers and creeks that comprise the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder and Bird River watersheds. Through educational outreach and hands-on efforts, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) and its community partners will assist residents in creek clean-ups, tree plantings, and yard and garden installations all designed to proudly maintain the health and heritage of our treasured Chesapeake waterways.



www.clearcreeks.org
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To have your yard assessed for a rain garden, contact:

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For questions about rain gardens, contact:

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RAIN GARDENS



Do you want to:

- See your feets in our creeks again,
- Decrease pollution in local waterways,
- Reduce the maintenance needed in your yard, and
- Support native wildlife?

Plant a rain garden!

Rain gardens are special water-loving gardens that help soak up rain water from your roof, driveway, or other hard surfaces. They are planted at low spots in your yard so that when it rains, the water collects in the garden and the plants help the water soak into the ground.

Don't let your lawn run-off...

Clear Creeks:

Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride
www.clearcreeks.org



Rain gardens are **not** much harder or much more expensive to design or build than a standard flower garden, and they're easier to maintain! **For those who live in the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder or Bird River Watersheds, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) will cover 80% of rain garden costs for eligible property owners, and GVC will help you plan and install your rain garden, all as part of the Clear Creeks Project. If you are interested in a rain garden, please contact us!**

www.clearcreeks.org



RAIN GARDEN BASICS

Design

A rain garden is planted in a low spot in your yard that will collect water from impervious (or hard) surfaces, including your roof, driveway, or street or a sloped lawn. Whether you have a flat lawn or a sloped lawn, you can make a good spot for a rain garden with a little bit of digging. The size of the garden is based first on how much space you have available and second on how much impervious surface will drain into your rain garden. As with a traditional garden, the design and planting process will also depend on what type of soil you have, how sunny the site is, and other factors.



Plant

The planting process is, again, similar to any flower garden you might plant. The main differences are 1) rain gardens are usually sunk a few inches below the surface of your lawn to help contain more water when it rains and 2) native plants are used. Also, if the soil has a lot of clay, you may need to add some compost, sand, gravel, or other material to help the



water infiltrate (or drain) into your garden. Once you lay out your garden and have your soil prepared, it's time to put in your plants! The numbered pictures in this brochure show just a few of the beautiful native plants and flowers from which you can choose.

Maintain

To establish your rain garden, you will need to do a little mulching, weeding, and watering at first, especially during dry periods.

Suggested Native Plants:
(numbered images)

1. Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
2. Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
3. Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
4. Boneset (*Eupatorium purpureum*)
5. Swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)
6. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
7. Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
8. New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
9. Rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
10. Bergamot (*Monarda bradburiana*)
11. Blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*)
12. Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)
13. Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)