Rain Gardens are popping up everywhere. You’ll find them on college campuses and office gardens, in mall parking lots, along city streets and multi-use trails. They’ve even taken over highways, in large parking lots and along highways, as well as roadsides. We’ve seen them along highways, in large parking lots and along city streets. Rain gardens are designed to intercept stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and release it into the ground slowly. This helps reduce flooding, erosion and pollution from stormwater runoff.

The good news is local use of rain gardens is helping to prevent pollution reaching creeks and streams by filtering water. As another benefit, these gardens aren’t just another pretty garden bed, they enhance your property by improving your water quality. Rain gardens are designed to intercept stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and release it into the ground slowly. This helps reduce flooding, erosion and pollution from stormwater runoff. Just as rain gardens stop water from reaching our local waterways, they also help prevent pollution reaching creeks and streams by filtering water. As another benefit, these gardens aren’t just another pretty garden bed, they enhance your property by improving your water quality.

These gardens aren’t just another pretty garden bed, they enhance your property, your community and our environment. With growing development and expanding urban communities replacing forests and agricultural land, impervious surfaces have grown more prevalent and problematic. Impervious surfaces such as roadways, driveways and sidewalks increase flooding, because when it rains, the water has nowhere to drain. We’ve seen flooding, erosion and pollution from stormwater runoff, and we’ve seen how quickly the drains on our property can become overwhelmed.

Why Do We Need Rain Gardens?

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The plants used in a rain garden are “deep-rooted native plants,” because these species are especially helpful in filtering water. As another benefit, these plants also attract birds, pollinators and other wildlife, providing food and shelter for them. Native plants support a variety of birds — both local and migratory species — as well as beneficial insects, butterflies and bats. Using a rain garden to create an ecological landscape is imperative for these species’ survival. A rain garden will attract different species — like turtles, frogs and toads — to a meadow or edge garden, so if you plant a variety of native gardens, you can enjoy an oasis of wildlife in your own backyard!

How does a rain garden work?

First, what is a rain garden? A rain garden — also called Bioswale, Rain Garden or Bioretention — is a landscaped depression that is planted with native plant species that treat and capture runoff. It’s not just another garden bed, and it doesn’t need to be limited to perennial wildflowers and grasses. Shrubs and trees can also be used in rain gardens to advance increased absorption, retention and beauty. Rain gardens are designed to intercept water and help return it slowly back into the ground. The rain garden absorbs and filters water, reduces the amount of pollutants reaching creeks and streams by up to 30%. The rain garden provides beneficial habitat for birds and butterflies. And the beauty of a rain garden is that it can be planted in urban and industrial settings, along highways, in large parking lots and in your own backyard.

A rain garden on your property provides many benefits, including:

- Filtrating pollutants, 
- Consuming water, 
- Removing standing water in your yard, 
- Reducing mosquito breeding, 
- Increasing beneficial insects that eat pests, 
- Reducing potential of home flooding, 
- Creating habitat for birds and butterflies, 
- Surviving drought seasons, 
- Reducing garden maintenance, 
- And adding beauty to your property!

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