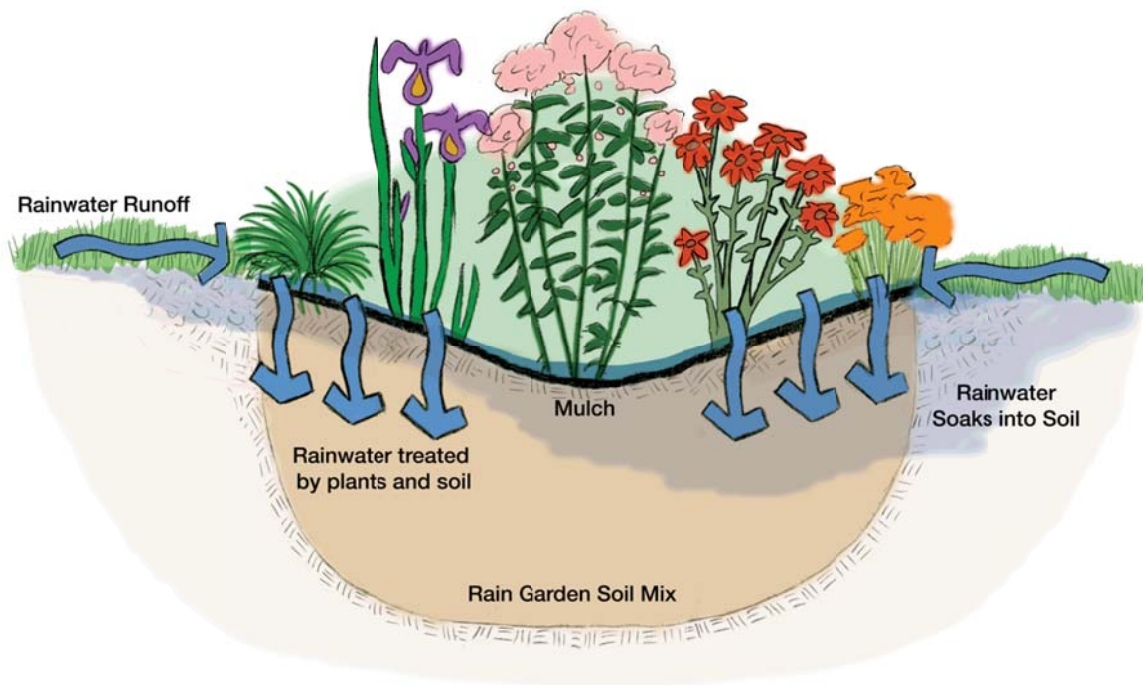


# What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a special kind of garden. It is typically planted with native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs. It has a shallow dip at the center to collect, filter, and soak up rainwater running off the land, roof tops, and pavement. A rain garden will naturally trap nutrients, and other pollutants, and clean up dirty rainwater.



## What are the Benefits?

- Native plants naturally need less water, fertilizers, and pesticides saving you time and money.
- Rain gardens attract birds and butterflies to your yard.
- Rain gardens keep dirty rainwater from entering the storm sewer system and the Grand River.

## How do I Plant a Rain Garden?

1. Select a spot in your yard to capture rainwater.
2. Use a shovel to create a shallow dip.
3. Replace soil if needed. A good mix is 50-60% sand, 20-30% topsoil, and 20-30% compost.
4. Plant native plants (ex. butterfly weed, purple coneflower, prairie dropseed, multicolored iris).
5. Mulch with shredded hardwood and water.
6. Visit [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org) for more information.

