



Rain Gardens

With 1,500 stream miles, waterways are at the core of Lancaster County. They drive economic opportunity and growth that benefit our local economy and agriculture. Our rivers and streams are the source of our drinking water and recreation enjoyed by all. To protect these waters, we need to strengthen the sense of stewardship in Lancaster. Water connects us all!

Rain gardens are simple solutions to capture and retain stormwater close to the source, preventing polluted runoff. The average quarter acre lot (with a 2,500 square foot home) can contribute over 5,000 gallons of polluted runoff in a single 1 inch rainfall event.

Our goal is streams and rivers that are fishable, swimmable, and drinkable.

BENEFITS OF RAIN GARDENS

- ▶ Manage the rain water where it falls
- ▶ Reduce localized flooding
- ▶ Plants, soil and microorganisms remove many types of pollution
- ▶ Are attractive landscape features
- ▶ Provide important food and shelter for wildlife

Rain Gardens Support Pollinators

Native plants are at the heart of a pollinator-friendly garden providing food and host plant benefits beyond what most non-native plants can offer in any landscape. Flowers in many colors, shapes and sizes draw a variety of pollinators like bees, butterflies, beetles, moths, and more to perform their essential pollination services.

Pollinators play a critical role in the reproduction of 90% of all flowering plants, and are involved in the production of about one out of every three bites of food that humans eat. Pollinators also serve as direct food sources for many wildlife species, in the form of eggs, larva and insects.

If you have interest in setting up a rain garden, please contact Linda Ferich at lferich@lancasterconservancy.org.



Rain Garden planting

Rain gardens are generally 6-12 inches deep, saucer shaped depressions that are planted with moisture-loving native plants as a method of managing rain by pooling water within a planting area and then allowing the water to infiltrate the garden. The plants, soil, and associated microorganisms remove many types of pollutants— such as pesticides, fertilizer, and motor oil—from entering streams and drinking water supplies. Rain gardens can be strategically placed to catch rainwater from downspouts, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, or any paved surface. Any size rain garden is better than no rain garden!

For more rain garden resources, visit the **Save It! website** at www.saveitlancaster.org

