

Water Conservation –

Rain Gardens

A *rain garden* is a shallow depression, planted with native plants, that absorbs rain water (runoff) from impervious surfaces like the roof of your home. The native plant's root structure allows water to slowly filter into the ground rather than runoff into a storm sewer. It also allows it to access water sources other plants aren't able to reach!

By using a *rain garden*, you are benefiting the environment by:

- ◆ Slowing down rain runoff so it can drain naturally into the ground which helps recharge our aquifers,
- ◆ Keeping excess water out of sewer systems, which keeps the water from collecting pollutants along its way to our waterbodies,
- ◆ Reducing drainage problems and flooding of our creeks/ivers, and
- ◆ Creating habitat.

Rain Garden in a neighborhood setting

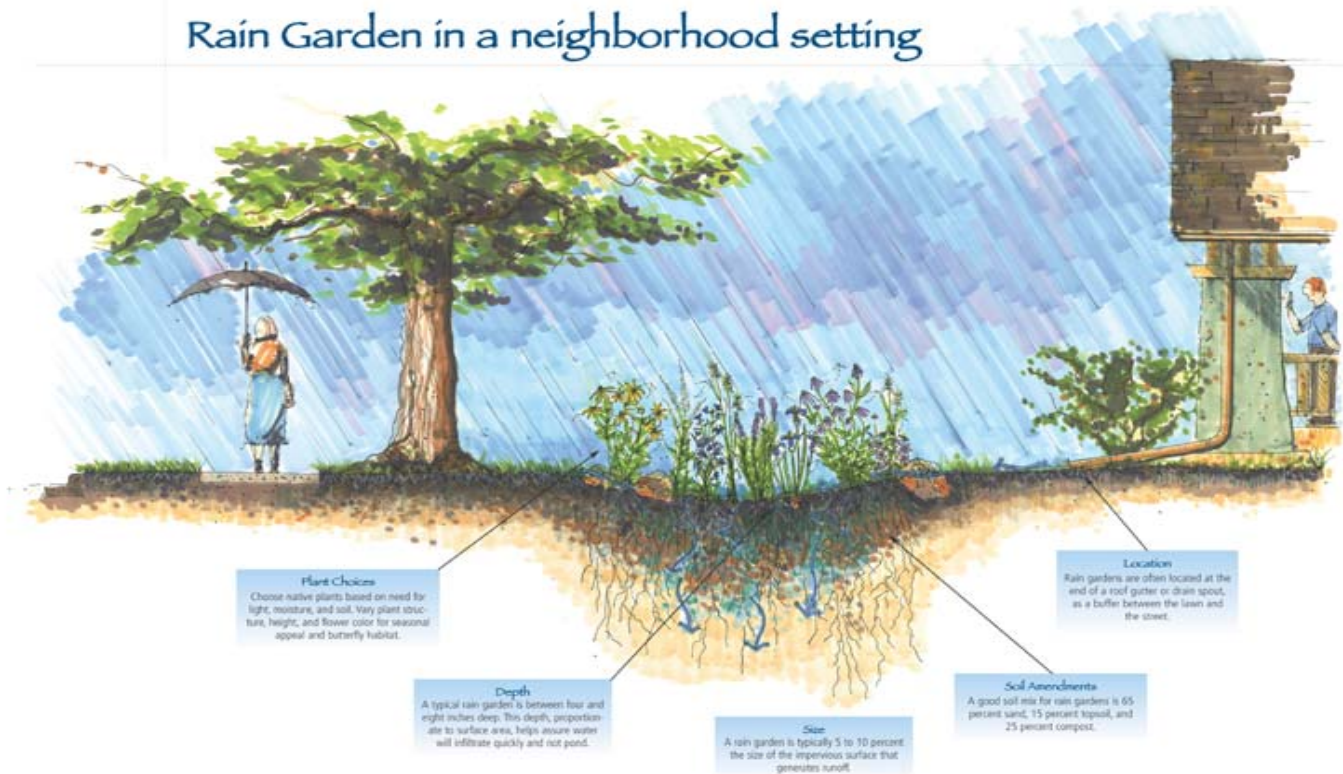


Photo Courtesy of Iowa USDA-NRCS

