

rain garden at The Family Center

1800 North Blanchard Street, Findlay, Ohio

A CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR STORM WATER IN THE BLANCHARD RIVER WATERSHED

Visit & Learn!



Rain Gardens: Nature's Way Of Clearing The Storm

A rain garden is an attractive, sunken landscape bed of native perennials that captures storm water runoff so it can be absorbed into the ground and cleansed of pollution.

What Are The Benefits Of Rain Gardens?

- Provide storage for floodwater and help prevent ditches and sewers from being overwhelmed.
- Improved water quality by filtering pollutants from stormwater such as grass clippings, pesticides, fertilizers, gas, oil and other kinds of residue.
- Provide an excellent habitat for wildlife, especially when planted with native species.
- Beautify neighborhoods with minimal maintenance once the plants are established.

How Can I Learn More?



The Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo-Lucas County is a collaborative effort of local environmental organizations, agencies and businesses. The goal is to assist interested citizens in constructing rain gardens by providing demonstration gardens, technical training, and public information and involvement. **For more information, please contact any partner or visit the Initiative website at www.raingardeninitiative.org.**

Downspouts

Downspouts can be directed to the rain garden by creating a grassy swale, creating a rock-lined channel, extending the downspout across the lawn, or by running a PVC pipe underground from the downspout to the garden.

Mulch

A shredded hardwood mulch is used to minimize weeds and maintain moisture in the garden. The garden will be under water after a rain, so avoid using a mulch that will float.

Soils

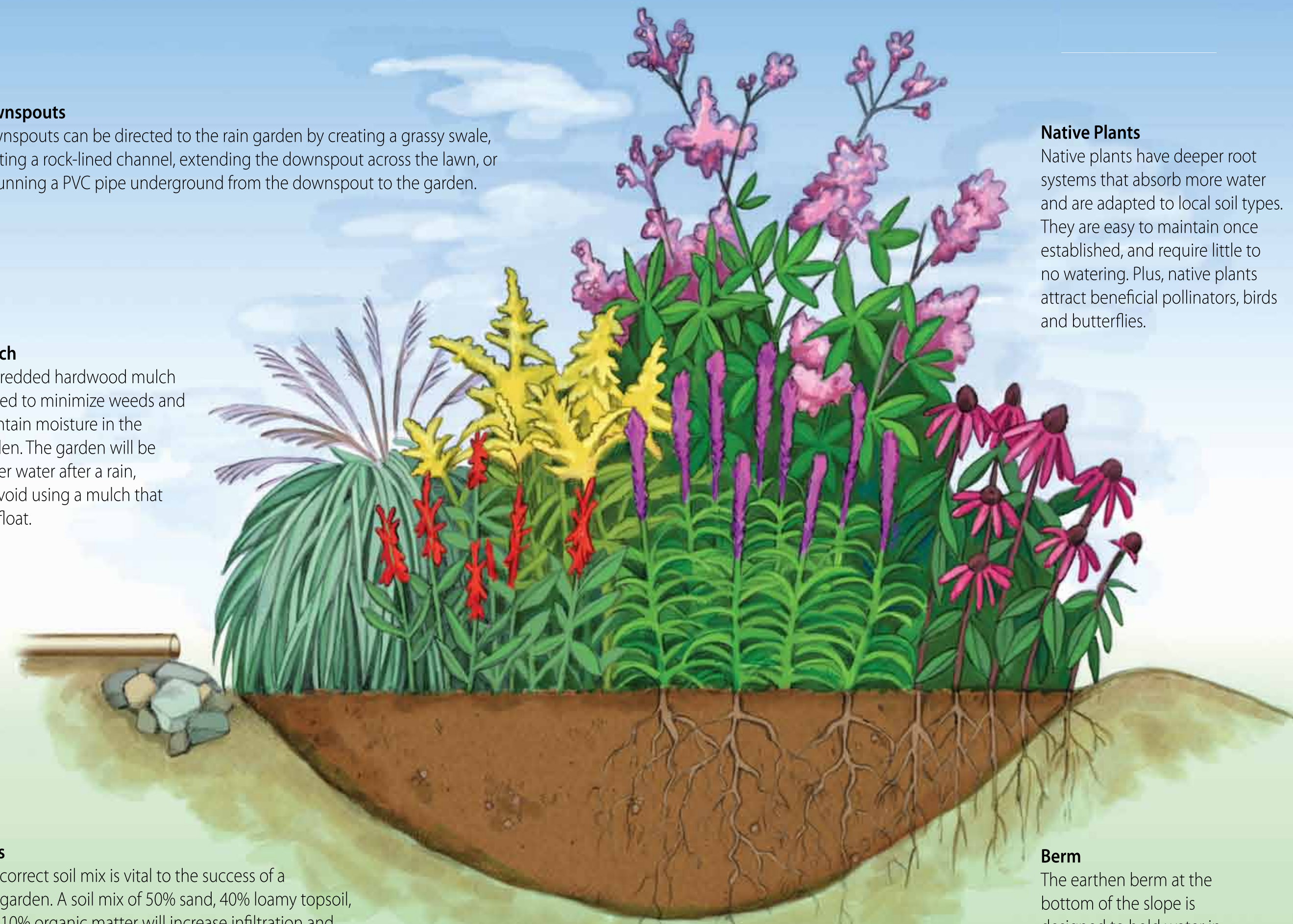
The correct soil mix is vital to the success of a rain garden. A soil mix of 50% sand, 40% loamy topsoil, and 10% organic matter will increase infiltration and help process nutrients.

Roots

Deep-rooted plants are the essential component of the rain garden, as they penetrate and break up the soil. The extensive root systems prevent soil erosion and minimize garden maintenance.

Native Plants

Native plants have deeper root systems that absorb more water and are adapted to local soil types. They are easy to maintain once established, and require little to no watering. Plus, native plants attract beneficial pollinators, birds and butterflies.



Berm

The earthen berm at the bottom of the slope is designed to hold water in the garden.

RAIN GARDEN PLANTS PICTURED ABOVE

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia*)

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea*)

Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendula*)

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias*)

Goldenrod (*Solidago*)

Big Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon*)

Blazing Star (*Liatris*)

FUNDING FOR THIS SIGN WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE.

Welcome to Our Gardens!

The rain garden is part of a collaborative project growing in our communities and the watershed that provides a harvest of benefits from fresh food for families in need to flood damage reduction helped by the rain garden. Visit the Family Center Community Gardens of Hancock County to see the demonstration area that can be duplicated around your community. Special thanks to United Way of Hancock County, OSU Extension, the Mentor Initiative, Hancock County Master Gardeners, The Community Foundation, the Blanchard Valley Green Coalition and the Hancock County Sustainability Committee.



Learn More, Get Involved & Volunteer

For Community Gardens information, contact United Way of Hancock County 419-423-1432 www.LiveUnitedHancockCounty.org
For Rain Garden information, contact Blanchard River Watershed Partnership www.BlanchardRiver.org



Native Ohio plants selected to absorb stormwater.



Volunteers plant and will care for the rain garden.

A Rain Garden for You

Low areas that collect water can be easily adapted to a rain garden. Just about anyone, anywhere, can plant a rain garden. It is best to see and experience one first, and that's why the Family Center was chosen as a central location for all to see. Other rain gardens are planned around the watershed. This project was planned and planted in 2 months with the local volunteers and the University of Findlay during the summer of 2011.



Rain Gardens are beautiful, and they work with little care.



Get involved. Volunteer. Be part of the solution.

A Cooperative Effort

While not a new concept, the rain garden brings back some of the best practices learned years ago, thanks to many cooperating agencies. The Rain Garden Project at The Family Center is part of a Strategic Plan of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership that brings natural solutions to communities in the watershed to help preserve water quality. Special thanks to the University of Findlay for help planning this project, students and faculty for help planting and monitoring.

A grant from the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation made this project possible. Along with the educational information available to those interested in developing their own rain garden, The Family Center gardens will continue to grow.

BPRW Mission

"The Blanchard River Watershed Partnership encourages water quality improvements to our geologically unique, northwestern Ohio watershed, through sustainable land and water use, collaboration, conservation and enhancement of natural and man-made resources."

Learn More

The BRWP is a citizen-volunteer, non-profit organization supported by members and sponsors who help develop and promote watershed action plans, educational projects and informational programs to benefit life in the watershed. Everyone who uses water should be involved, and are invited to join this effort. Contact the BRWP through our website at www.BlanchardRiver.org

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