

Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground carrying human-made and natural pollutants with it. It eventually dumps into streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and our underground drinking water supply, affecting us and our natural resources.



Why Should I Care?

NPS pollution affects everyone. It may ruin your drinking water, kill fish and aquatic life at your favorite fishing spot, and pollute your child's favorite swimming hole. A rain garden reduces the amount of NPS pollution that reaches our streams, which helps protect the water quality of the Delaware River.

Examples of NPS Pollution

- Excess fertilizer, pesticide, and stormwater runoff from residential & agricultural areas
- Excess nutrients and harmful bacteria from faulty septic systems, pet waste, & livestock
- Accelerated sediment runoff from construction sites, dirt and gravel roads, timber operations, and some farming practices
- Oil, salt, paint, heavy metals, other toxic chemicals from urban areas

Project Partners



www.lehighconservation.org



Upper Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council



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RAIN GARDENS

A Stormwater Solution to Non-Point Source Pollution



Planting a rain garden is an easy way to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff and the amount of non-point source pollution entering our local streams.

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What is a rain garden

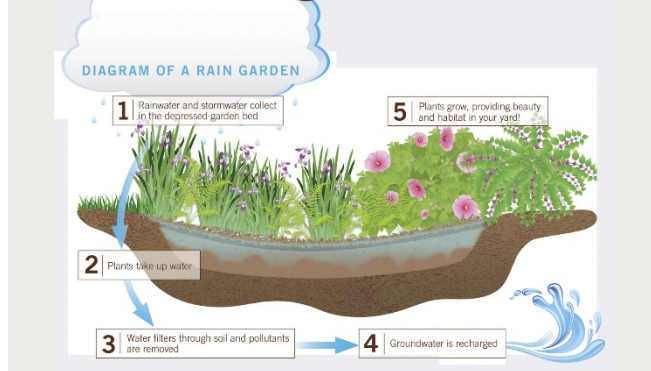
A **rain garden** is a bioretention area that reproduces the physical, chemical, and biological processes of the natural environment to create a more efficient, on-site, water treatment area. The incorporation of native plants, mulch, and soil, introduces biological processes and provides water quantity control and improved water quality through the removal of pollutants and nutrients associated with stormwater runoff.



BENEFITS of a Rain Garden

- Reduces non-point source pollution
- Decreases stormwater runoff impacts to the Delaware River by storing rainwater until it can infiltrate into the soil, therefore restoring groundwater recharge
- A low-maintenance practice for homeowners that makes you part of the stormwater pollution solution by absorbing and filtering rainwater that would otherwise run off your property and down the storm drain
- A lovely landscaping feature that creates wildlife habitat and saves you money by reducing the amount of lawn you have to maintain

Constructing a Rain Garden



Helpful tips:

Consider the amount of impervious surface draining to your garden, the infiltration capacity of your soil, and the slope of your yard, which will determine the depth of your rain garden.

Choose a natural depression where water already flows off of your property, at least 10 feet away from a dwelling, and an area where a downspout can be diverted to your garden.

Avoid steep slopes and areas with high water tables.

Plant native species that tolerate a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions, attract local wildlife and beneficial pollinators, and provide a beautiful landscape.

For detailed instructions, you can refer to:
Raingardenalliance.org
Montgomery County Maryland Rainscapes – Rain Garden Resources
Nemo.uconn.edu

Stormwater

Rain water runoff is typically collected in storm sewer systems and released directly into streams. This direct runoff can contribute to flooding in developed areas that contain a lot of impervious surfaces including roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots.

Runoff carries pollutants that decrease water quality, affecting the health of local waterways and drinking water. These issues are of particular importance in highly developed areas as more impervious surfaces cause more runoff during a rain or snow event.

When you collect rain water that would otherwise enter the storm sewer system, you are helping to minimize the amount of stormwater that will directly run off into streams.



Rain gardens are low maintenance and can **SAVE YOU MONEY!** They reduce the amount of lawn you have to maintain.

Rain gardens are **NOT** ponds! They hold the rain while it soaks into the soil.

The goal of constructing a rain garden is to mimic naturally occurring functions that exist in nature. Installing a rain garden on your property makes **YOU** part of the stormwater pollution solution.