

# RAIN GARDENS



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

A rain garden is a shallow depression that collects water from roofs, lawns, patios, sidewalks, and driveways.

Water in a rain garden is held temporarily, so it can slowly filter into the ground instead of washing into the storm sewer.

Water that runs off hard surfaces, like roofs and driveways, can pick up pollution and carry it untreated to our local lakes, streams, and rivers. Rain gardens remove pollutants like fertilizer, sediment, and chemicals before they enter our nearby water.

Rain gardens are planted with deep-rooted flowers, grasses, and shrubs. These plants help filter and clean water.



Photo: Joshua J Cotten Unsplash



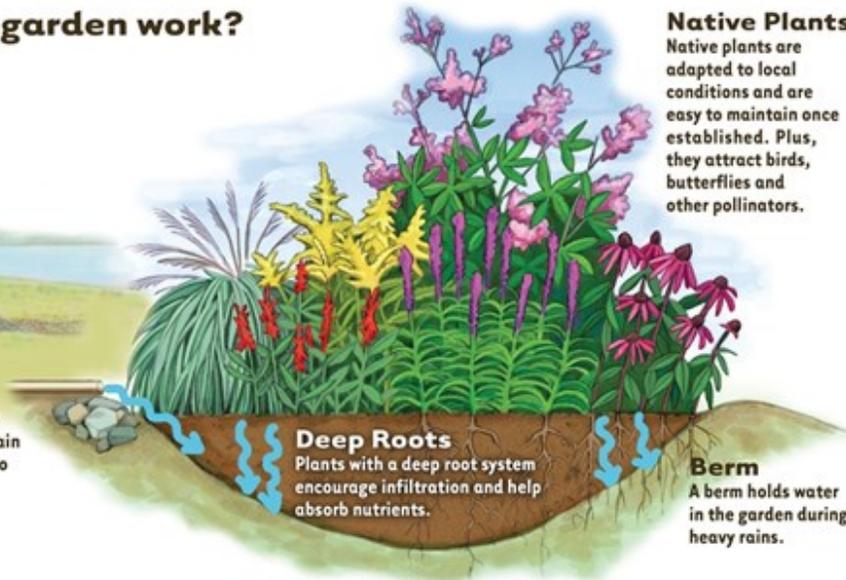
Photo: Gardening Know How Andrey Nikitin

## How does a rain garden work?



### Gutters & Down Spouts

Assist with directing rain water from your roof to your rain garden.



### Deep Roots

Plants with a deep root system encourage infiltration and help absorb nutrients.

### Native Plants

Native plants are adapted to local conditions and are easy to maintain once established. Plus, they attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

### Berm

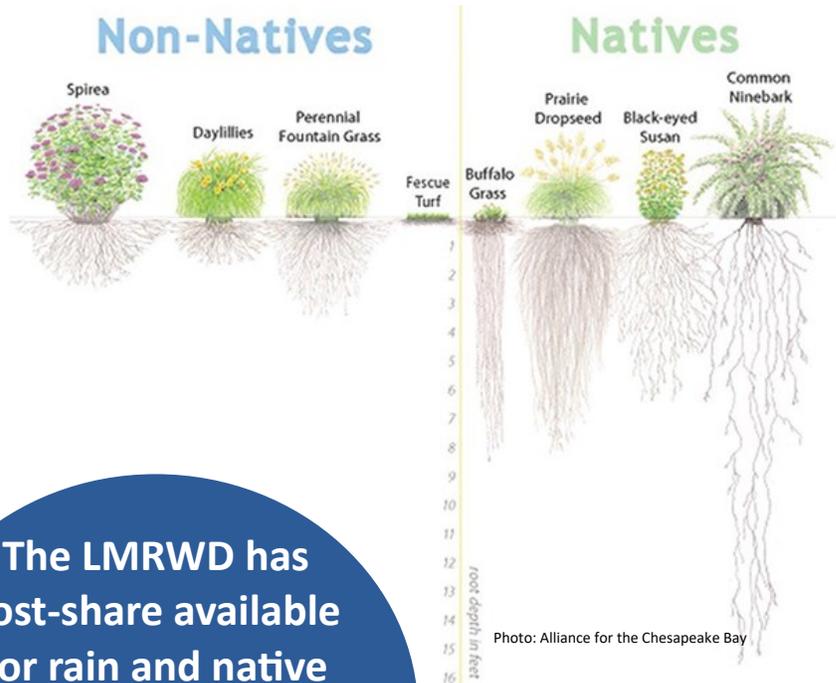
A berm holds water in the garden during heavy rains.

# Native Plants



A native plant is one that occurred naturally in a particular area without human interaction. Native plants do well in the soils and climate of their original location.

Because native plants are best suited for the environment they originated in, they typically need less water and pesticides. Their deep roots infiltrate water, maintain healthy soils, and reduce soil erosion.



The LMRWD has cost-share available for rain and native garden projects. Contact the LMRWD for more information!

The LMRWD is a local, special-purpose unit of government that works to solve and prevent water-related issues. Visit our website and follow us on social media!



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