

# Rain Gardens

are just what they sound like: gardens that soak up rain water and allow the water to slowly filter into the ground.

This prevents pollutants from finding their way into our streams and waterways.

By reducing the amount of water that enters local storm drain systems, rain gardens can both reduce local flooding and mitigate shoreline damage where storm drains empty into the Bay's watershed.

## Location:

There are three different areas where rain gardens work most effectively:



## Steps:

Once you've selected a location for your rain garden, the rest is easy.

**Step 1:** Figure out the rain garden size you need. To be effective, the rain garden should be 25% of the size of the impervious area surrounding it. Impervious areas are surfaces which don't absorb water. Lay out the boundaries of the garden with rope or string.



**You can make a difference by building a rain garden in your own backyard!**



**Step 2:** Dig your rain garden 4 or 5 inches below the yard level. Make sure that the surface of the rain garden is level.

**Step 3:** Plant native plants of your choice in your rain garden. Plants should be resistant to drought but able to survive ponding (standing in water) for up to 24 hours at a time.



# Resources



If you need further assistance,  
or if you have any questions, call the

Department of Public Works  
Stormwater Management

or the

Annapolis Environmental Commission

both at

410-263-7949/50

## Online Resources:

For more information,  
search for 'rain gardens'  
on these local websites:

Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
[www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)

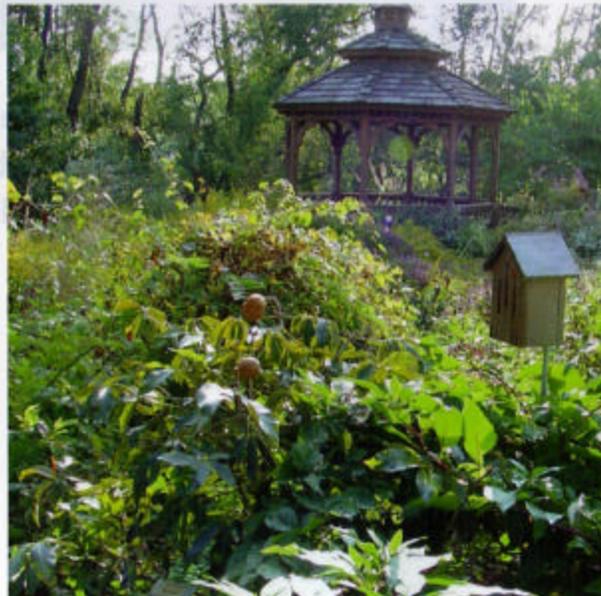
Maryland Department  
of Natural Resources  
[www.dnr.state.md.us](http://www.dnr.state.md.us)

*Photographs courtesy of University of Wisconsin Extension/  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

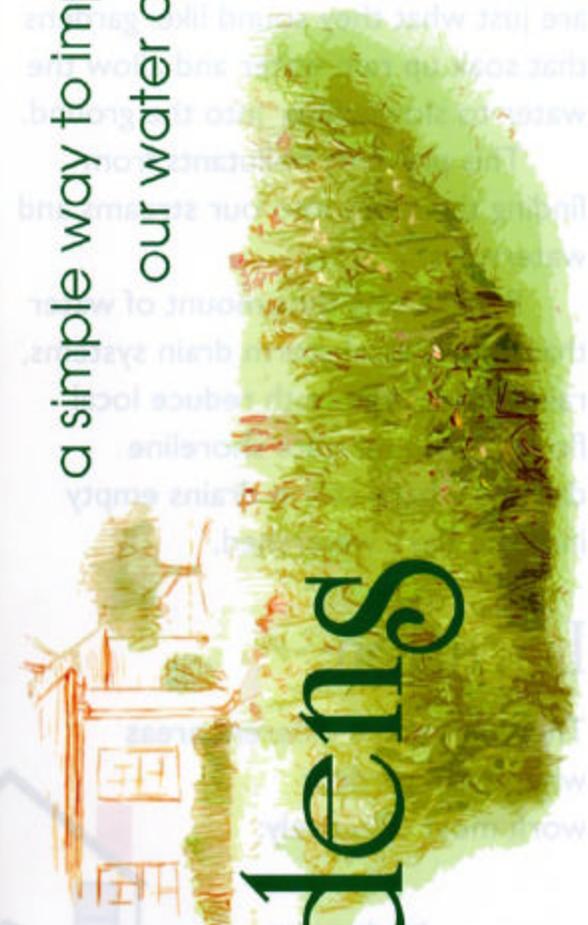


## A Local Success Story:

The Rain Garden at the ARC of  
Anne Arundel County, built by volunteers  
in a location off Spa Road, helps  
to keep our waterways clean  
and our shorelines intact.



a simple way to improve  
our water quality



# Rain gardens