



CRWC

CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO RAIN GARDENS

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns.

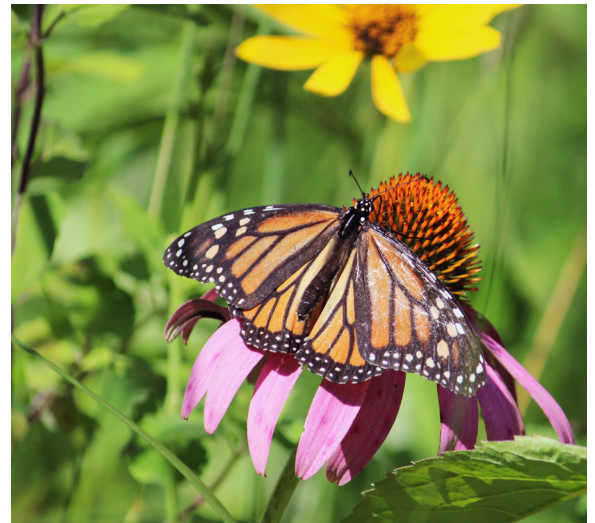
Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.

Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

Rain gardens are landscaping features designed to capture stormwater runoff from roofs, parking lots, lawns and roads.

HOW DO RAIN GARDENS IMPROVE WATER QUALITY?

- Rain gardens slow stormwater by collecting it before it enters storm drains. Once captured it can be soaked up by the plants or slowly move through the soil. This helps in areas where flooding is an issue.
- Plants in a rain garden use excess nutrients in stormwater, and help to keep other pollutants from entering streams, lakes and rivers.
- Not only do they improve water quality, rain gardens also provide habitat and food for pollinators and other wildlife.



Newly planted rain garden at the CRWC office in wet weather (left) and dry weather (right)

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