

Rain Garden

Runoff carries pollutants & rain gardens are a solution!

What is stormwater?

- Stormwater is **rainfall runoff** that flows over urban impervious surfaces like streets, parking lots and roof tops. Stormwater can pick up pollutants like automotive fluids, pet wastes and chemicals from yard care and flow into a storm drain or **directly into lakes**, streams and rivers.
- Anything that enters the storm drain system is discharged **untreated** into water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.
- The EPA now considers stormwater pollution to be one of the **most significant sources of contamination** to our nation's water bodies and streams.



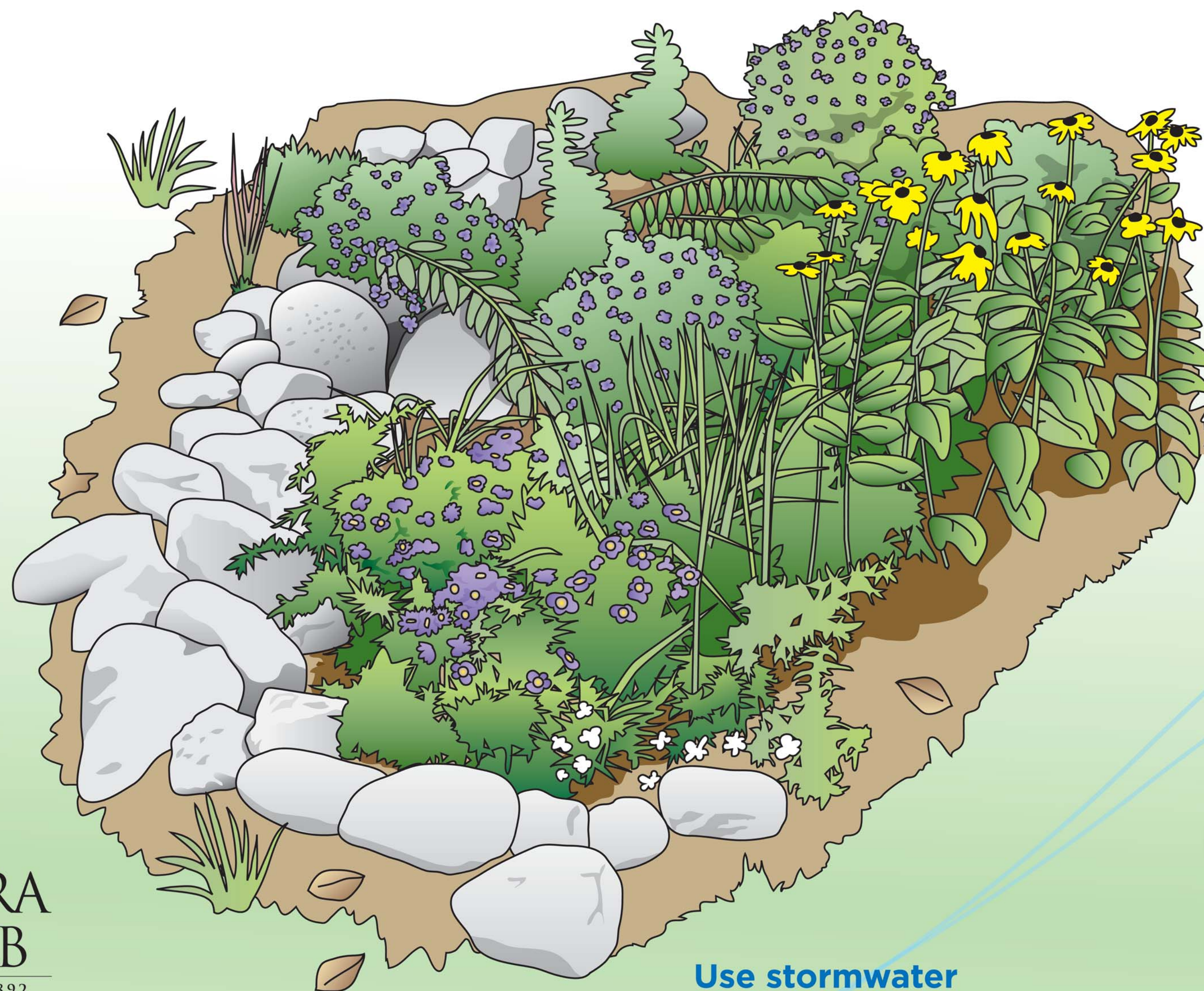
Did you know storm drain runoff does not get treated?

How to treat stormwater

- This specially designed rain garden **catches stormwater runoff** from the adjacent street to reduce runoff into nearby Valley Water Mill Lake.
- The leaves, roots and stems of these native plants will **absorb, store and break down potential pollutants** in the stormwater like heavy metals, nutrients, oils and greases.

What is a rain garden?

- A rain garden is a **shallow, constructed depression** that is planted with **deep-rooted native plants** and grasses. It is located to receive runoff from hard surfaces such as a roof, driveway, street or parking lot.
- Rain gardens slow down the rush of water from these hard surfaces, hold the water for a short period of time and allow it to naturally **infiltrate** into the ground. Rain gardens will reduce drainage and **flooding problems**, keep **pollutants** out of nearby streams, rivers and lakes; and bring **beauty** and wildlife to the landscape.
- There are two kinds of rain gardens: **wet and dry**. The wet rain garden holds water almost all of the time. The rain garden at Valley Water Mill is a dry rain garden and most water is absorbed within 48 hours.



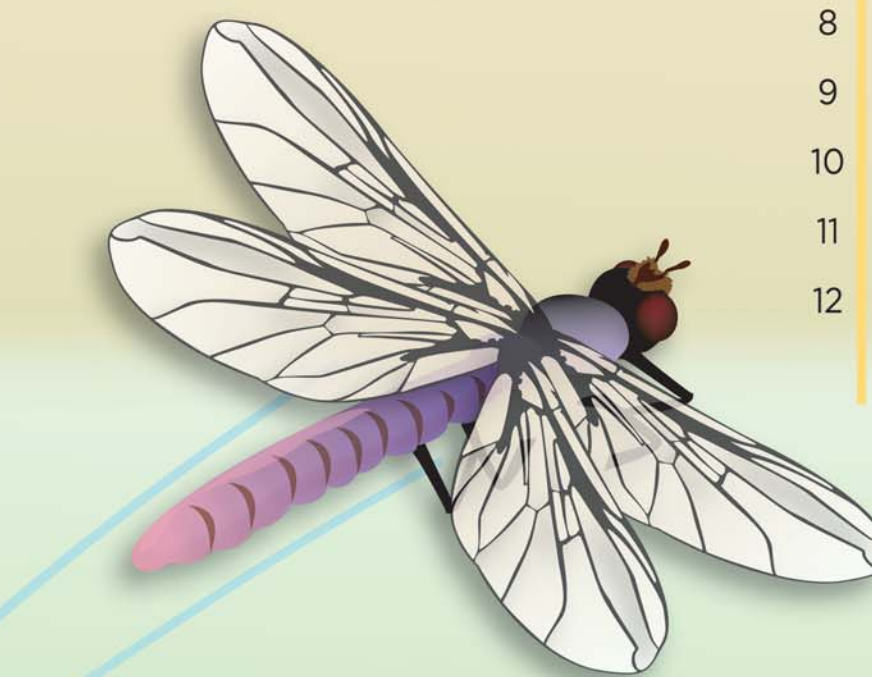
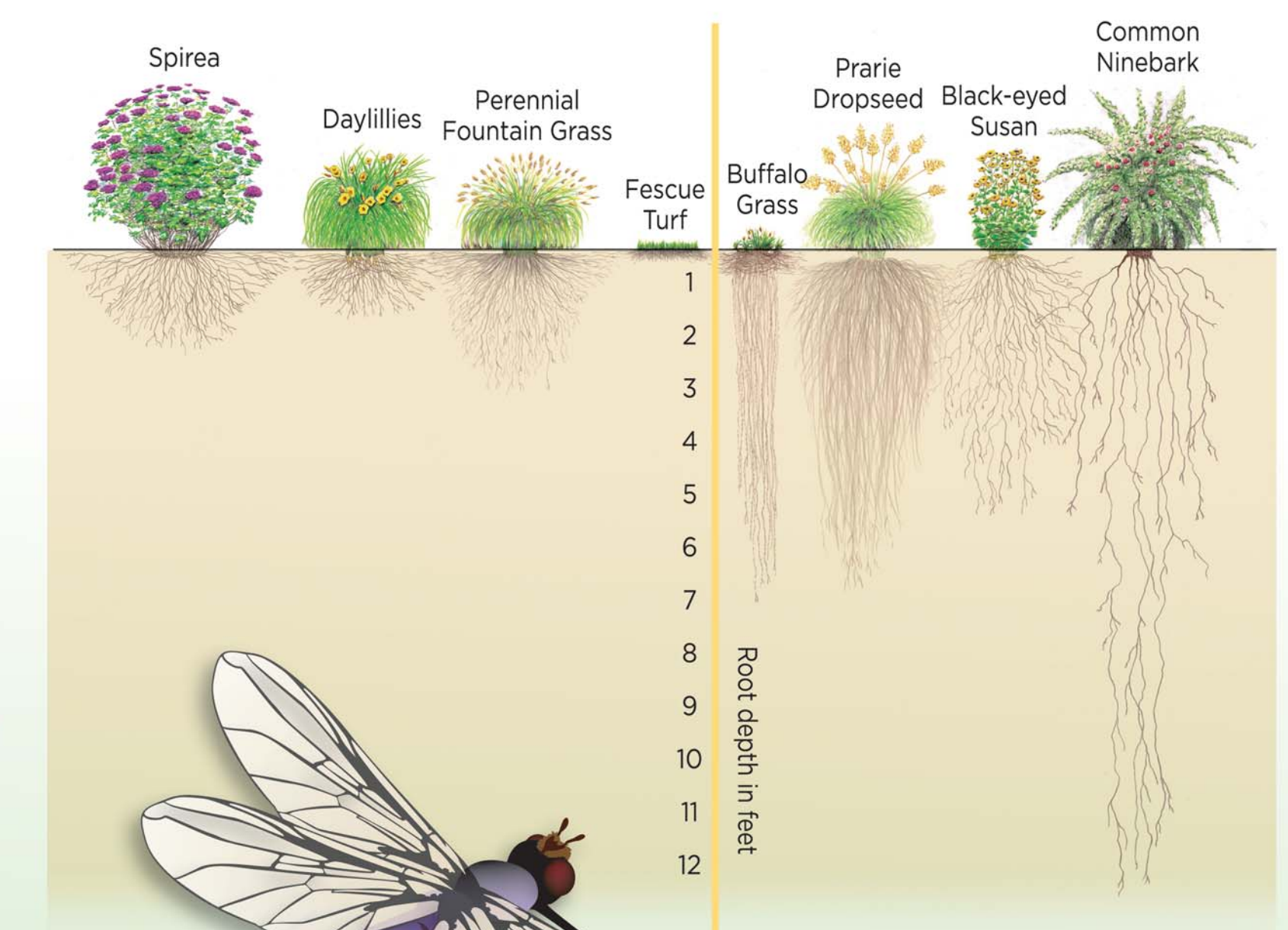
Use stormwater as a resource!

Why use native plants?

- Native plants are desirable landscape plants because they have evolved and adapted to the local climate, soils and rainfall conditions. They attract wildlife and help restore bio-diversity. **They are hardy!**
- Other benefits of native plants include **deep root systems** that help water infiltrate the soil. Native plants require little or no special care after becoming established and generally do not need additional chemical inputs like fertilizers or insecticides, which can contribute to stormwater pollution.

Non-Natives

Natives



Do rain gardens attract mosquitoes?

The water in a dry rain garden should be absorbed within 48 hours...too soon for mosquito larvae to hatch. The wet rain garden is a diverse biological network, complete with dragonflies, frogs, minnows, beetles and other aquatic life that consume mosquito larvae as well as the mature adult mosquito.



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For more information on rain gardens, please visit our website at www.watershedcommittee.org

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