

# Rain Gardens

## What is a Rain Garden?

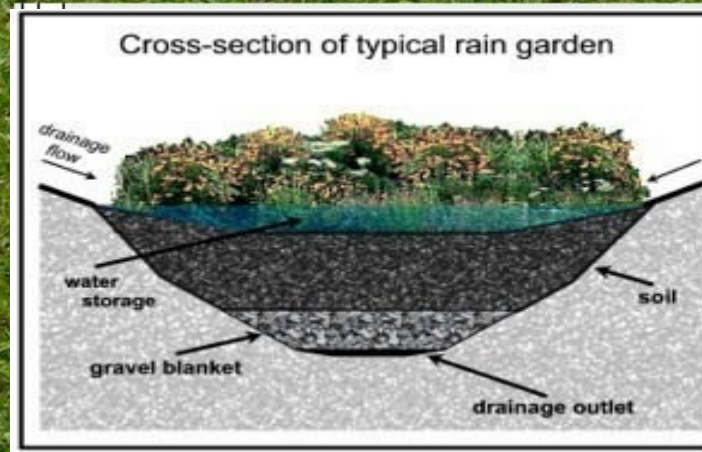
It is a landscaped area with a depressed planting bed that receives rain water from *impervious surfaces* (roof, roads & parking lots).

## What does a Rain Garden do?

A rain garden allows the rain water to pool for a short period of time in the garden. As the water soaks into the ground the water is cleaned by the plants and the soil microbes. This water now can recharge the ground water supply and release slowly into the stream.

Storm water that runs off impervious surfaces and into storm drains flows directly to our streams, carrying with it any pollutants it picked up along the way. The pollutants and the large volume of water rushing to the stream can have a dramatic impact on the stream's habitat stability and flash flooding.

A special thanks to Intervale Compost for donating soil, Black Rock Coal for donating stones and to Gardens of Seven Gables!



## Do Rain Gardens Breed Mosquitoes?

NO! Mosquitoes need 7-12 days to lay and hatch, rain garden standing water should last no longer than 4 days (usually lasting only a few hours for a typical summer storm with one inch of rain fall )



## Rain gardens provide multiple benefits, including:

Reduce flooding on neighboring property, overflow in sewers, and erosion in streams by absorbing water from impervious surfaces.

Filter oil and grease from driveways, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, and other pollutants before they reach the storm drain and eventually streams, wetlands, lakes and marine waters.

Increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground to recharge local groundwater.

Provide habitat for beneficial insects and birds.

