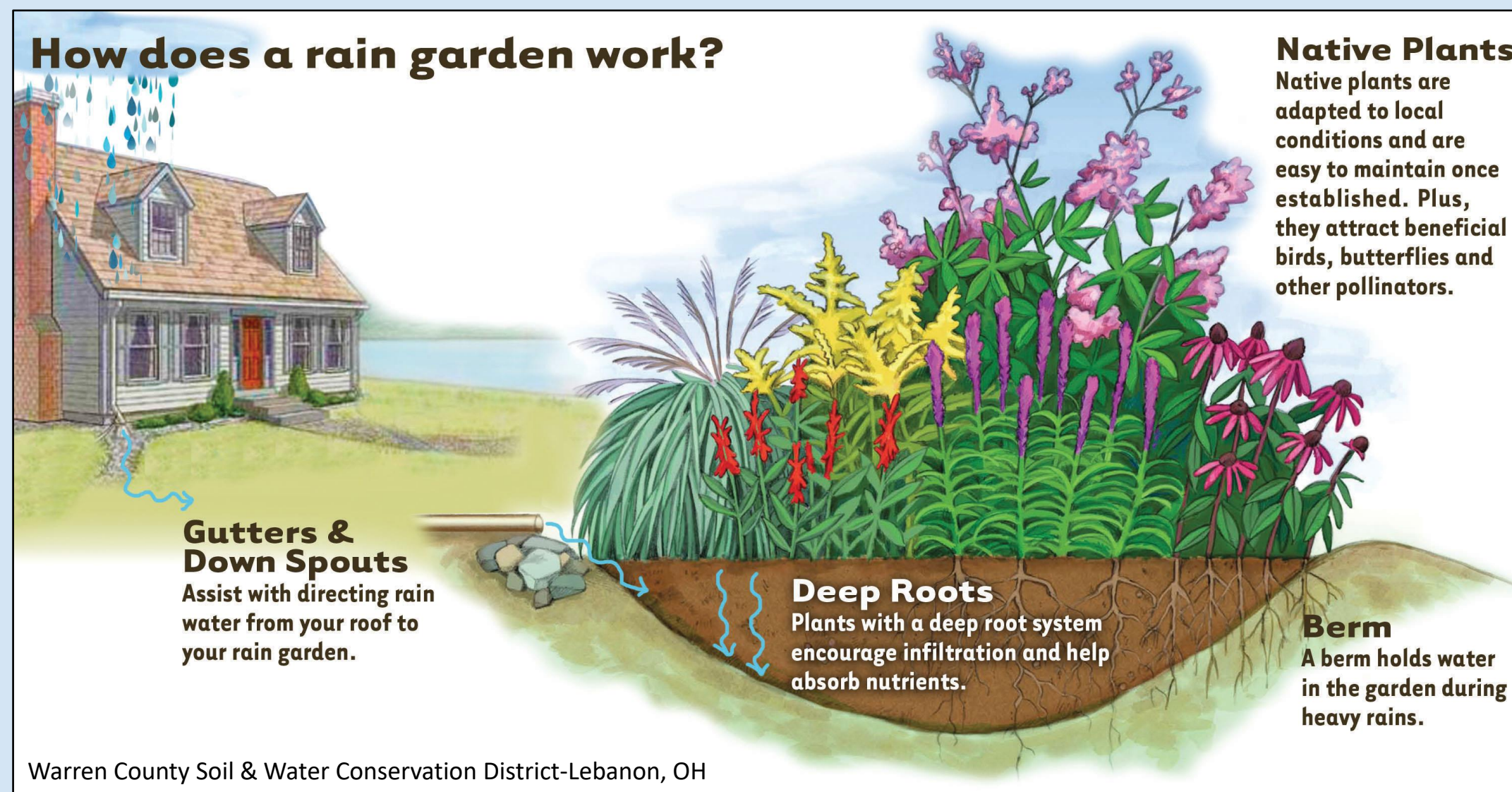


SUSSEX COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL RAIN GARDEN

What is a Rain Garden?



Rain gardens are shallow basins planted with native vegetation that are used to manage stormwater. When stormwater runoff from a paved parking lot, rooftop, or a compacted lawn flows into a rain garden, the water slowly soaks into the soil and replenishes groundwater, instead of flowing into the storm drain. Rain gardens capture and store stormwater before it becomes polluted by fertilizer, road salt, motor oil, and other pollutants, helping to keep the Wallkill River clean.

Some of the Species Planted

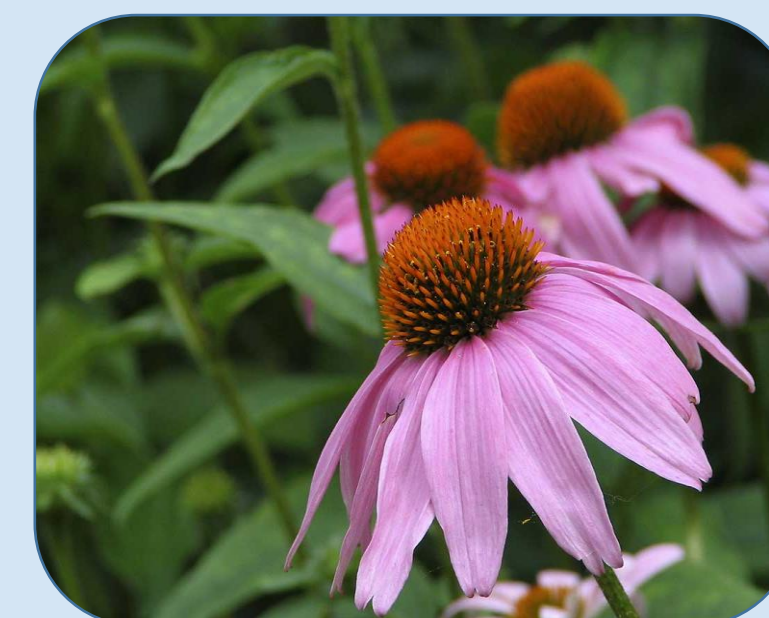
Blue Flag Iris:

a wetland plant with violet flowers that can grow in standing water



Cardinal Flower:

a wetland perennial with red flowers that attract pollinators



Purple Coneflower:

a flowering plant that attracts pollinators and grows in well-drained soil



Storm drains, like the one pictured below, lead to the river so any pollutants that enter the storm drain will also contaminate the Wallkill River.



Pollutants:

Fertilizer
Pesticide
Road Salt
Motor Oil



Impervious surfaces

Asphalt Parking Lots
Concrete Sidewalks
Rooftop Shingles
Stone
Brick

Pervious surfaces

Porous Parking Lots
Cardboard and Paper
Gardens and Farmland
Mulch
Sponge

A pervious (porous) surface allows water to soak through it. An impervious surface does not.

Rain Garden Benefits

- ✓ Clean Water
- ✓ Groundwater Recharge
- ✓ Flood Control
- ✓ Wildlife Habitat
- ✓ Public Health
- ✓ Economic Vitality

Why Plant Natives?

Native plants provide food and habitat for butterflies, bees, and birds. The plants are well-adapted to local weather and soil conditions so they will thrive on their own after the first few growing seasons.



Project Partners:

