

Directions

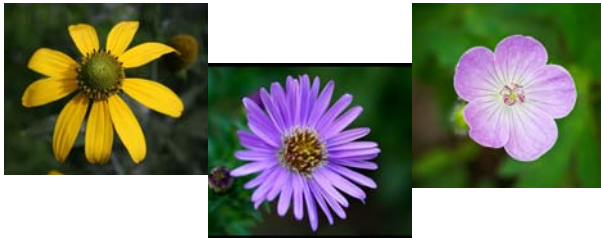
The rain gardens are located at Mission Oaks Gardens, a property of the Muskingum Valley Park District, and are available for viewing seven days a week, dawn to dusk. Admission is free. The park is hilly and appropriate footwear is strongly encouraged.

From Columbus

Take I-70 east to exit 153/State Street. Turn left off of the exit ramp and east to the traffic light. Turn left onto State Street and go north to Adair Avenue. Turn right onto Adair and head east to Maple Avenue. Turn left onto Maple Avenue/SR 60 and travel north to McConnell. Turn right onto McConnell, left onto Euclid, and right on Pitman Street where parking is available.

From Cambridge

Take I-70 west to exit 153B/Maple Avenue. Travel north on Maple Avenue. Turn right onto McConnell, left onto Euclid, and right on Pitman Street where parking is available.



For more information and volunteer opportunities please contact:

Mission Oaks Gardens
740.450.8050 extension 2
www.missionoaksgardens.org



Muskingum Valley
Park District
1720 Euclid Ave.
Zanesville, OH 43701
740.455.8237
www.mvparkdistrict.org

This brochure along with the rain gardens at Mission Oaks Gardens were created by the Muskingum Valley Park District with a *Partners in Watershed Management* grant through the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

Partners in the project include:



Muskingum Soil & Water
Conservation District



Master Gardener®
Ohio State University Extension Volunteer



Rain Gardens

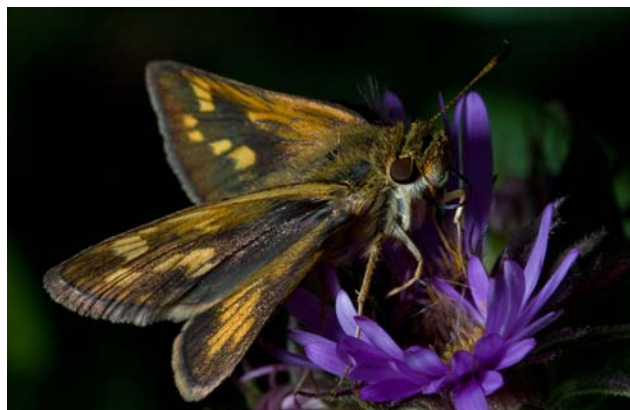
A natural way to use rain water as a resource!



A rain garden is a low area, filled with colorful native plants, that catches rain water and snowmelt from downspouts, roofs, driveways, and parking areas. It reduces runoff and pollutants entering the city storm water system and ultimately the Muskingum River.

A rain garden will . . .

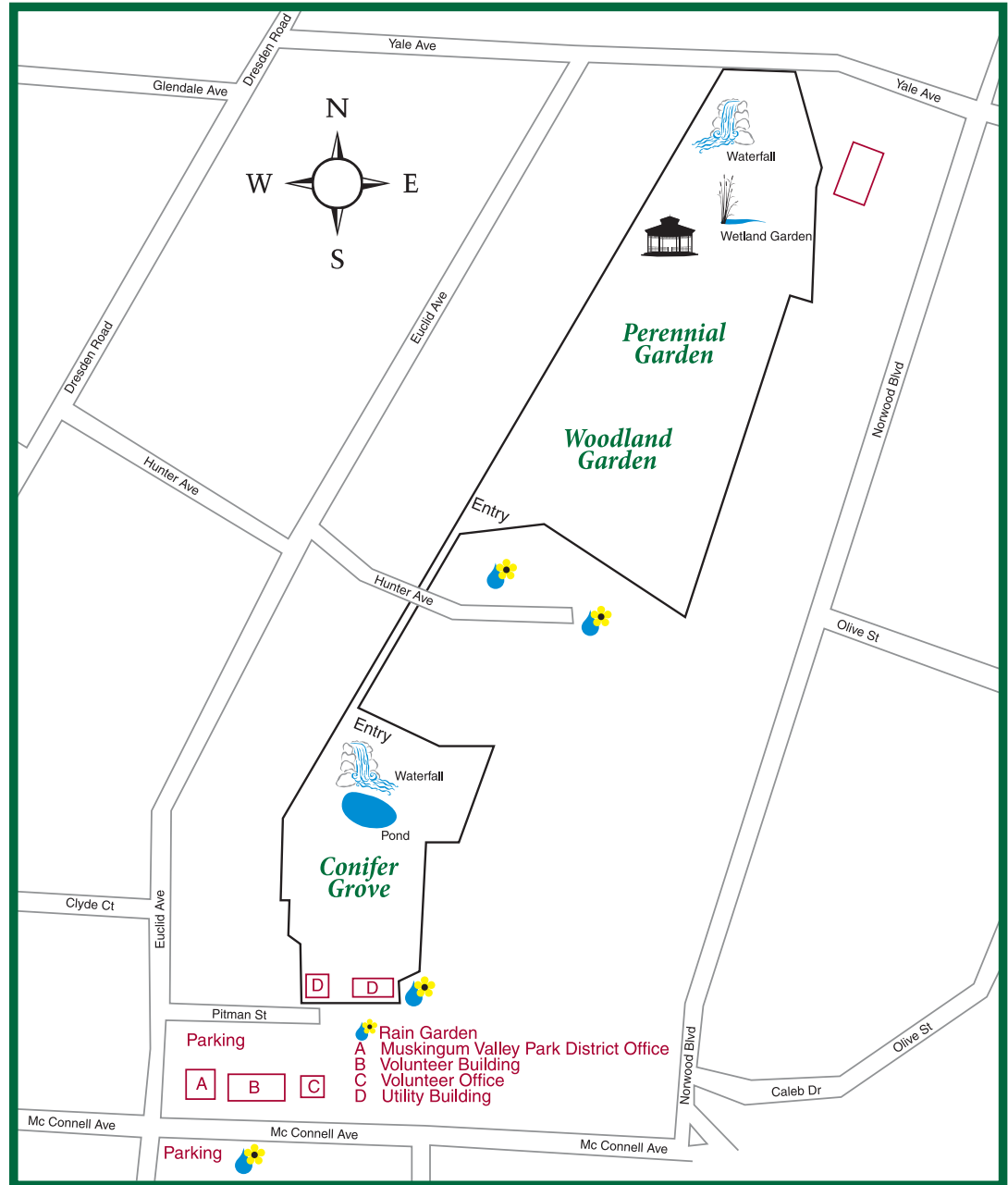
- Reduce the volume of rain water and snow melt entering the storm sewer system
- Improve water quality of streams and rivers by filtering out pollutants
- Recharge the groundwater supply
- Provide excellent habitat for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects
- Beautify your home, office, and community





Rain Gardens Map for Mission Oaks Gardens

Please visit all four rain gardens.

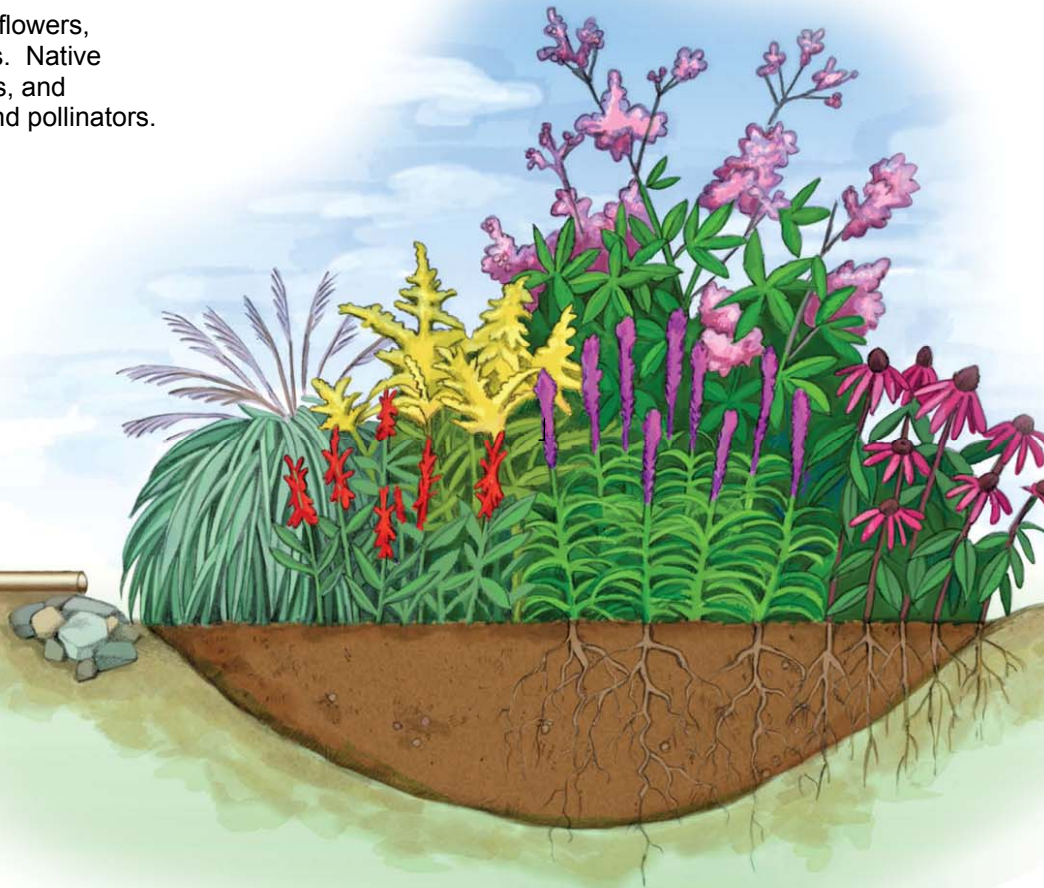


Soaking It Up

Rain gardens help recycle stormwater runoff, naturally!

Consider planting native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and/or trees. Native plants attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial predator insects and pollinators.

Typical home rain gardens collect water from down spouts which can be directed to the site through a grassy swale, rock lined channel, extension of the downspout across the lawn, or a pipe run underground from the downspout to the rain garden. Locate the rain garden at least 10 feet from the foundation of any buildings and away from any septic tank leach fields and utility lines.



To minimize weeds and conserve moisture, a 2 to 3 inch layer of shredded hardwood mulch is helpful. Because the garden's purpose is to hold water after a rain, avoid mulch that will float.

An earthen berm holds back the storm water for infiltration. A properly installed rain garden will not hold water long enough to attract mosquitoes. In fact, rain gardens attract dragonflies and damselflies which eat mosquitoes.

Since the rain garden's purpose is to hold storm water, giving it time to percolate into the soil, the correct soil mix is essential. A mix of 50% sand, 40% loamy topsoil, and 10% organic matter is recommended.

Choose deep rooted native plants which assist with infiltration. Native plants have adapted to the local climate and are tolerant of extremes in Ohio weather. Such plants are easy to maintain and require little to no watering after the first year.

Rain gardens can be aesthetically pleasing and can include a combination of flowering perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees. Stunning effects can be created through a mixture of colors, textures, heights, and blooming periods. Be sure to evaluate each plant's water and sun tolerance to insure you choose the best plants for your site.

Here is a list of list of rain garden plants at Mission Oaks Gardens. This list is just a hint of all of the spectacular choices available.

- Pink coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*
- Louisiana iris, *Iris x Louisiana hybrids*
- Butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Sneezeweed, *Helenium autumnale*
- Rough goldenrod, *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks'
- Swamp mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos*
- Turtlehead, *Chelone lyonii*
- Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
- Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*
- New England aster, *Aster novae-angliae*
- Woodland phlox, *Phlox divaricata* 'Manita'
- Woodland phlox, *Phlox divaricata* 'Chattahoochee'
- Joe pye weed, *Eupatorium*
- Prairie dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*
- Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- Summer sweet bush, *Clethra alnifolia*
- Red cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
- Dense blazing star, *Liatris spicata*
- Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal'
- False blue indigo, *Baptisia australis*
- Red osier dogwood, *Cornus sericea*
- Bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*
- Flat topped aster, *Aster umbellatus*
- Tussock sedge, *Carex stricta*
- Coneflower mix, *Echinacea*

Check your local nurseries or search the internet for native plants suitable for Zone 5.



Did you know

The Muskingum River is Ohio's fifth longest stream at 111.1 miles.

The Muskingum River is Ohio's largest watershed with 8,038 acres of land area.

Nearly 70% of pollution of our surface water gets there through stormwater runoff, according to the U.S. EPA.

About 50% of that pollution is chemical pollution from products we use for yard care, household activities, and from our yard waste.

Rain gardens are designed to temporarily fill with water from downspouts, driveways, streets, yards, and parking lots. Rain gardens improve water quality by trapping pollutants in the surface runoff from these areas including fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, oil, gas, and sediment.



The rain gardens at Mission Oaks Gardens intercept rain water and snowmelt before they reach the City of Zanesville's storm sewer system which drains into the Muskingum River.

Compared to a patch of lawn, rain gardens allow 30 percent more water to soak into the ground.



Rain gardens provide attractive landscape opportunities which have been shown to increase property values up to 20 percent.



Remember—anyone can make a rain garden!

- You don't need much space.
- You can fit them in oddly shaped areas.
- You can add them to existing buildings.
- You don't need to be an engineer.

Resources abound for those who wish to learn more about rain gardens, some include step by step instructions. Try these:

- www.mvparkdistrict.org
- www.missionoaksgardens.org
- www.geaugaswcd.com
- www.raingardeninitiative.org
- www.nrcs.gov
- www.millcreekwatershed.org
- www.muskingumriver.org
- www.projectplant.org
- www.centralohioraingardens.org
- <http://ohioline.osu.edu>
- <http://plants.usda.gov>
- www.oipc.info
- www.ohiodnr.com/dnap