

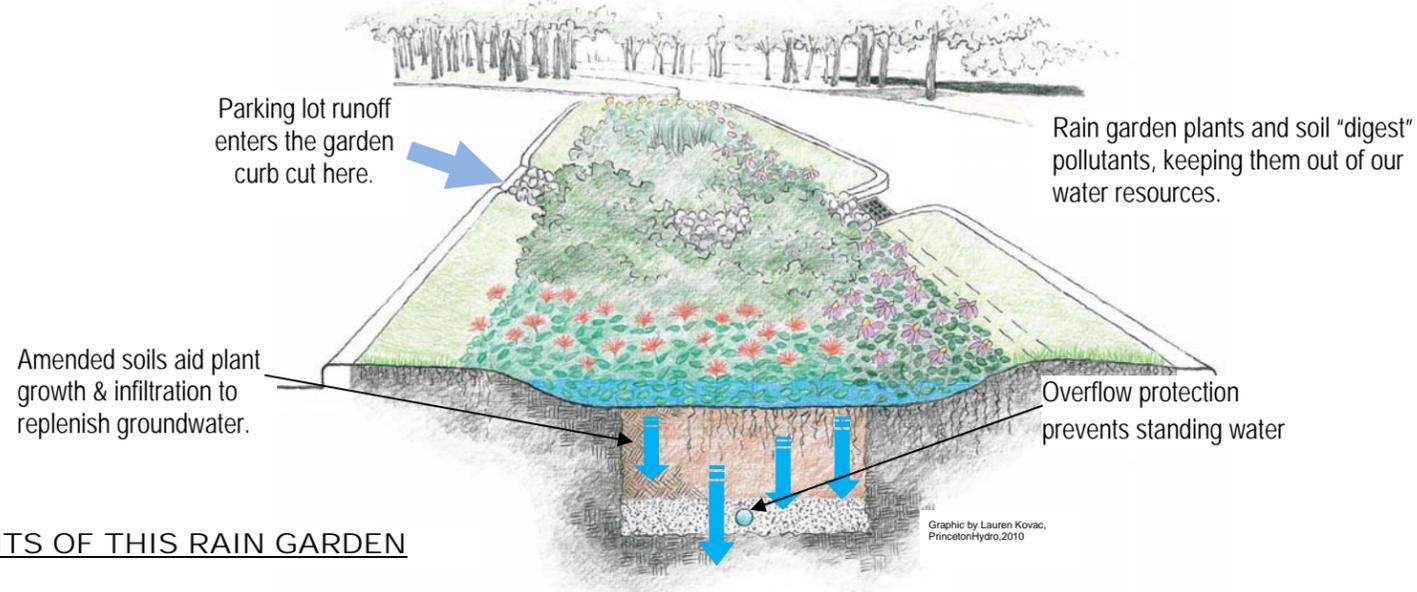
Thompson Park Rain Garden

A Component of the Manalapan Brook Watershed Restoration Plan

Monroe Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Stormwater runoff is a leading cause of pollution in our streams and lakes. Impervious surfaces everywhere (driveways, roads, roofs, parking lots, even compacted lawns) prevent rain from being naturally filtered by soil and plants to replenish groundwater. This Rain Garden is designed to capture, clean and infiltrate stormwater from the adjacent parking lot.

DETAILS OF THIS RAIN GARDEN



PLANTS OF THIS RAIN GARDEN



Red Chokeberry / *Aronia arbutifolia*
Small white flower clusters in early May. Red Fruit from September into December. Found in conditions from dry hillsides to almost swampy areas. Birds eat fruit. Shrub.



Groundsel Tree / *Baccharis halimifolia*
Stalks of white flower clusters in the Fall. Cottony seed heads. Found at fringes of fresh & tidal marsh. Marsh wrens and small birds nest in branches. Shrub.
WARNING: Leaves are poisonous.



Summersweet / *Clethra alnifolia*
Fragrant spires of white flower in July & August. Prefers moist, acidic soils with organic matter. Salt tolerant. Shrub.



Orange Coneflower / *Rudbeckia fulgida*
Yellow "Black-eyed Susan" like flowers bloom July to October. Grows in full sun in soils with good drainage. Nectar for butterflies and winter seed for birds. Perennial.



Scarlet Beebalm / *Monarda didyma*
Clusters of lavender, pink or white flowers. Blooms June to August. Grows in marshes, wet meadows, dry fields and at the open edges of woods. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies, especially fritillaries. Perennial.



Eastern Coneflower / *Echinacea purpurea*
Attractive, long-lasting, lavender flowers. Blooms April through September. Easily grown garden plant that attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Perennial.

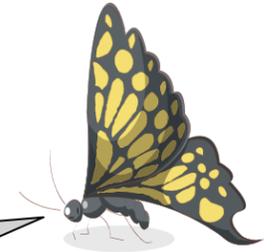


Joe Pye Weed / *Eupatorium fistulosum*
Wildflower that grows 2-6 feet tall. Fragrant purple or pink flowers in round clusters. Blooms July through September. Grows in woods, wet meadows and fields. Perennial.



Soft Rush / *Juncus effusus*
Grass-like stems in clumps. Clusters of very small greenish yellow flowers. Found in wetlands, swamps and damp open ground. Muskrats feed on roots. Birds shelter among stems. Perennial.

DID YOU KNOW?
Runoff carries oil, brake dust and other pollutants from parking lots and roads into storm sewers and our waterways.



Create a Rain Garden at Home

Residential rain gardens reduce runoff by collecting rain from roofs and pavements. Beautiful native flowering perennials and shrubs are appropriate and available.



For more information on Rain Gardens: www.water.rutgers.edu/H or the Manalapan Brook Watershed Plan: <http://co.middlesex.nj.us/planningboard/index.asp>

Original image by Communications and Marketing, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2010

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.
Rain Gardens clean thousands of gallons of runoff yearly, improving water quality and local habitats for wildlife.



Sponsored by :
The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Middlesex County Planning Board
Middlesex County Water Resources Association
Middlesex County Parks & Recreation Department
Middlesex County Planning Department



In Cooperation with :
NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY



Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County



Rutgers Master Gardeners of Middlesex County



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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