

## WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE A RAIN GARDEN?

**Beautify your yard!** Rain gardens are planted with beautiful flowers, colorful grasses, and even trees. They are flower gardens with a purpose!

**Less yard work!** An established rain garden needs little weeding or watering and they leave less yard to mow!

**Save money!** Compared to traditional gardens, rain gardens don't need as much water or fertilizer since native plants are used (see below)!

**Increase home value!** Mature landscaping increases the value of your home!

### **Make a difference!**

Filter storm water runoff - One of our major environmental problems is storm water runoff. Storm water runoff is the water that flows over impervious surfaces (buildings, roads, etc.) directly into a stream. This water carries pollutants like car oil, sediment, and fertilizers that destroy our streams and threaten our health. By collecting some of this water in your rain garden you can help filter out some of the pollutants!

Clean your stream - Any pollutants that your rain garden absorbs prevents them from reaching Jennifer Branch or the Bay! Cleaner water is safer and healthier for you and your family!

Grow native plants - One key to a successful, low maintenance rain garden is using native species. Native plants are adapted to Maryland's climate so they can handle our seasonal droughts with little watering and don't need as much fertilizer to grow in Maryland soils. Less fertilizer means less nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, and native plant populations help support native wildlife!

## GUNPOWDER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

[www.gunpowderfalls.org](http://www.gunpowderfalls.org)  
**Gunpowder Valley  
Conservancy**  
P.O. Box 9733  
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This brochure was created by the  
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC)  
through a grant provided by the National  
Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

If you'd like to have a rain garden  
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If you would like to support the  
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy  
(GVC) please make a donation by  
check only (payable to Gunpowder  
Valley Conservancy at address above)  
or

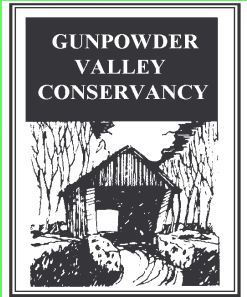
### **Become A Member!**

**Yes! I want to join the**

**Gunpowder Valley Conservancy**

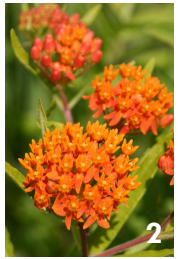
Send a tax-deductible check to GVC  
for: [ ] \$35 [ ] \$ 50 [ ] \$100 [ ] \$150  
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# RAIN GARDENS AND THE JENNIFER BRANCH



A rain garden is a special, water loving garden that helps soak up rain water from your roof, driveway, or other hard surfaces. They are planted at low spots in your yard so that when it rains the water collects in the garden and the plants help the water soak into the ground.

[www.jenniferbranch.org](http://www.jenniferbranch.org)



## RAIN GARDEN BASICS

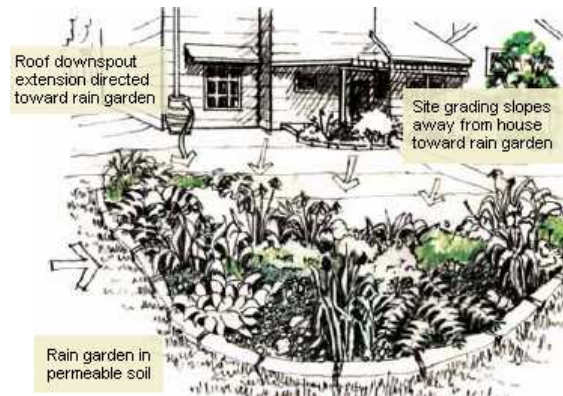
Rain gardens are *not* much harder or much more expensive to design or build than a standard flower garden, and they're easier to maintain! **If you live in the Jennifer Branch watershed** (Carney & Cub Hill area), **the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy will cover 80% of the cost and help you install your rain garden** as part of the Jennifer Branch Preservation Project. If you are interested in a rain garden, please contact us!

### What is the Jennifer Branch Preservation Project?

The project is a joint effort between non-profits, local churches, and community groups which will focus its efforts in Carney and Cub Hill. The partners will educate and assist you in various ways to beautify your yard while saving you money and improving the health of the Jennifer Branch Stream! Funding for this project was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through a grant awarded to the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy in order to assist in the restoration of Jennifer Branch and its watershed.

### Design

A rain garden is planted in a low spot in your yard that will collect water from impervious (or hard) surfaces, including your roof, driveway, street or a sloped lawn. Whether you have a flat lawn or a sloped lawn, you can make a good spot for a rain garden with a little bit of digging. The size of the garden is based first on how much space you have available and then on how much impervious surface will drain into your rain garden. As with a traditional garden, the design and planting process will also depend on what type of soil you have, how sunny the sight is and other factors.



### Plant

The planting process is, again, similar to any flower garden you might plant. The main differences are that a rain garden is usually dug down a few inches to help collect more water when it rains and that native plants are used. Also, if the soil has a lot of clay, you may need to add some compost, sand, gravel or other material to help the water infiltrate (or drain) into your garden. Once you lay out your garden and have your soil prepared, it's time to

put in your plants! The pictures around this brochure show just a few of the beautiful native plants and flowers that you can choose from.



### Maintain

To establish your rain garden you will need to do a little mulching, weeding and watering at first, especially during dry periods.

### Suggested Native Plants: (images clockwise from left to right)

1. Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
2. Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
3. Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
4. Boneset (*Eupatorium purpureum*)
5. Swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)
6. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
7. Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
8. New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
9. Rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
10. Bergamot (*Monarda bradburiana*)
11. Blue vervain (*Verbana hastata*)
12. Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)
13. Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)