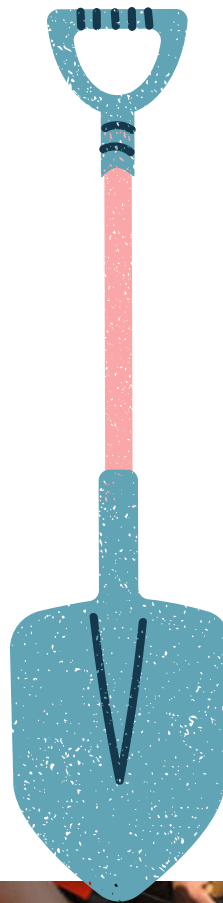




How We Serve You!

What We Offer to Our Youth Participants

- 💧 Volunteer Service Hours
- 💧 Leadership Experience
- 💧 Master Rain Gardener Certification
- 💧 Stipend Awarded For a Participant's Dedication to Protecting The **Doan Brook**
- 💧 Career Development In **Green Economies**
- 💧 A **Safe Space** to Collaborate And Connect With Peers From Across Cleveland's East Side



What We Offer to Our Partner Organizations

- 💧 A Rain Garden For Your Organization At **No Cost**
- 💧 2 Years of Maintenance With **Plans to Continue**
- 💧 An Opportunity to Increase Greenspace With **Native Plants** in Your Neighborhood
- 💧 A Stipend Awarded to Adult Mentors From Our Partner Organizations For Their Dedication to Protecting the **Doan Brook**



Questions? Contact us at BrookandBloom@DBWP.org
www.dbwp.org/programs/brookandbloom



Small Gardens Can Have a Big Impact!

What is a Rain Garden?

Curious about how you can protect local streams, improve water quality, and care for the land while gardening? You've come to the right place!

In short, a rain garden is a specially designed landscape feature that captures, filters, and reduces stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff refers to water that flows over the surface of the land instead of soaking into the ground. In urban areas, impervious surfaces, like roofs, roads, driveways, and even compacted lawns, prevent water from infiltrating naturally.



A rain garden solves this problem by creating a shallow, planted depression filled with loose soil and deep-rooted native plants. During a rain event, stormwater collects in the garden and gradually soaks into the ground. This process helps reduce flooding, erosion, filter pollutants, and limit the amount of runoff that enters storm drains and, eventually, our streams, rivers, and lakes.

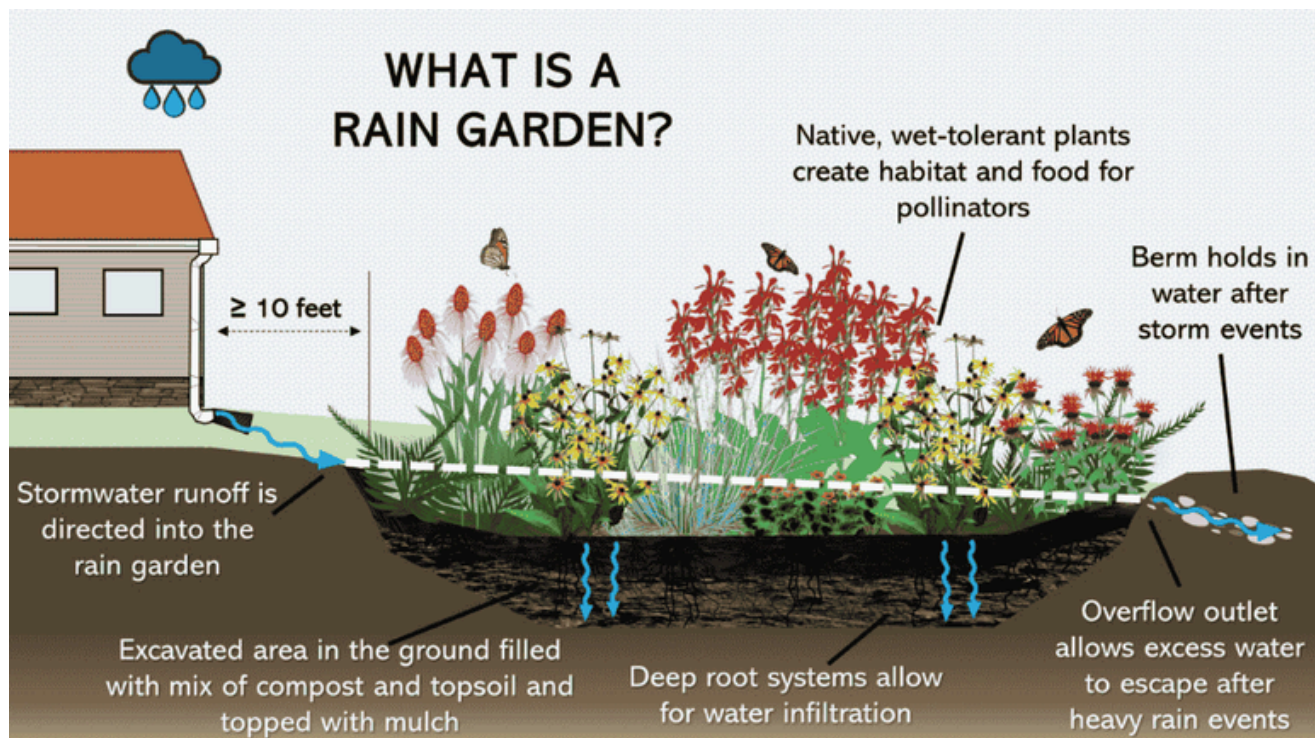


Image courtesy of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners



Small Gardens Can Have a Big Impact!

What Do Our Rain Gardens Look Like?

Each rain garden installed through our program will be vibrant and unique. While the results produced by these rain gardens are the same, their shape, size, location, plant selection, and youth-led design will all contribute to their individuality.

The location of a Brook & Bloom rain garden will be recommended to partners based on site-specific factors such as slope, soil conditions, and property layout. An initial site assessment will be conducted by Doan Brook Watershed Partnership staff to identify appropriate garden locations. This assessment will ensure there is sufficient space for a rain garden that avoids common obstructions. Common obstructions may include underground utilities and large trees.

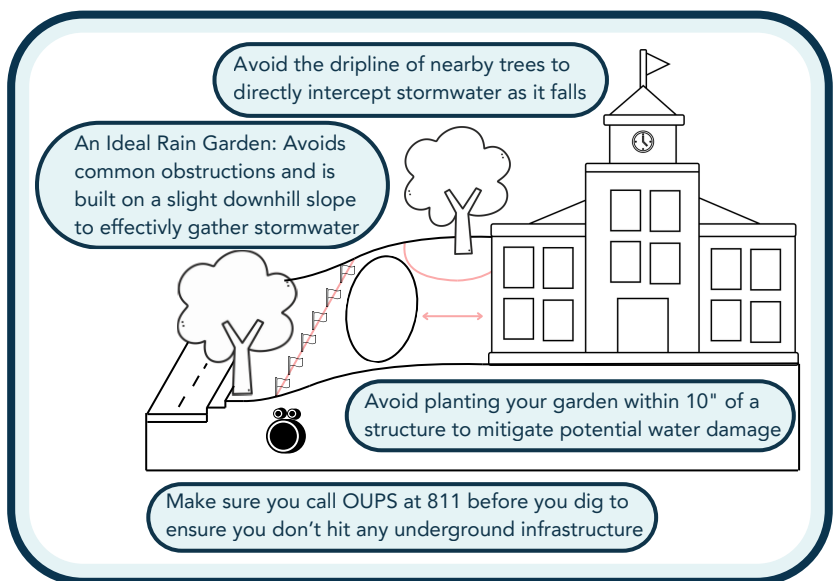


Once a suitable location for a rain garden has been identified, our Youth Master Rain Gardeners will design its exact location, size, and planting layout. Alongside youth, DBWP staff and Northeast Ohio Master Rain Gardeners will work with you to ensure a designed youth garden appeals to your community before we install.

All plants installed in a Brook and Bloom rain garden will be species native to Ohio with varying tolerances to shade and water. An exact list of potential plants is not available at this time, as it depends solely on what our local nurseries have in stock when we install. However, we know that among these plants will be several species of milkweed, native grasses and ferns, coneflowers, and medium-sized shrubs.

Plan Your Rain Garden

Having these obstacles on your property doesn't mean you can't have a rain garden. We may need to plan a bit more carefully, though.





Small Gardens Can Have a Big Impact!

How Do We Install Our Gardens?



Volunteer Master Rain Gardeners remove sod for a rain garden at Wilson Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio.

After removing the top layer of sod, our next step is to continue digging down until the basin of our rain garden is flat and has reached a sufficient depth. The depth that a basin must be dug depends on whether the soil surrounding your site is predominantly sand or clay.

After determining an ideal location for a rain garden, our first step is to remove the top layer of grass commonly referred to as sod. Sod excavated can be reused in the construction of the garden's exterior berm. This berm creates the border of a rain garden's basin, enabling it to effectively collect and store stormwater.



Volunteer Master Rain Gardeners remove soil for a rain garden at Wilson Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio.



Volunteer Master Rain Gardeners amend soil for a rain garden at Wilson Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio.

The removal of the top layer of sod and excavation down to a sufficient basin depth is definitely the most labor-intensive part of a rain garden installation, which makes finishing it even more rewarding. Now that our basin and berm have been constructed, we can amend the soil by mixing it with compost. This helps to ensure that any native plants we install will thrive.



Small Gardens Can Have a Big Impact!

How Do We Install Our Gardens?

With our basin sufficiently filled with amended soil, it's time to add our mulch and plants. To help protect plants and soak up water, a thick layer of mulch is added over the amended soil. Before committing to planting everything, it's great to take some time to lay out plants in expected areas and see if any changes need to be made.



Volunteer Master Rain Gardeners water plants for a rain garden at Wilson Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio.

This concludes a basic overview of the steps we take to install a rain garden at one of our partner organizations. If you have any questions about how you can receive a garden, contact us at BrookandBloom@DBWP.org or call us at [216-453-9107](tel:216-453-9107)



Volunteer Master Rain Gardeners place plants for a rain garden at Wilson Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio.

Our final steps in the installation of a rain garden are planting and watering. When planting, it is beneficial for our plants if you break up the root ball that often forms as a result of growing up in a pot. You can also mix some of the potted soil into the soil around plants to help them acclimate to their new homes.



Volunteer Master Rain Gardeners finish a rain garden at Wilson Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio.