

Vernon Park Rain Garden

The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) spearheaded the Vernon Park rain garden installation in collaboration with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, the Philadelphia Water Department, the Chew and Belfield Neighbors Club, the Friends of Vernon Park, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and over a dozen other organizations.

This collaborative work inspired a renewal of interest and involvement in Vernon Park, which led Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to choose Vernon Park as signature site for the *LOVE Your Park: Fall Edition* event. At this event, TTF, community partners, and over 100 community members completed and celebrated the new rain garden.



Tookany/Tacony-Frankford
Watershed Partnership, Inc.

Our mission is to enhance the health and vitality of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek and its watershed. We initiate and support efforts to restore the health of the watershed, and to mobilize our communities as watershed stewards through community outreach, networking, educational programs, and project coordination and implementation. Our watershed includes neighborhoods in North, Northeast, and Northwest Philadelphia and Abington, Cheltenham, Jenkintown, Rockledge, and Springfield in Montgomery County.

As a partner in the Philadelphia Water Department's *Green City, Clean Waters* program, we work to increase public stewardship, appreciation, and understanding of our watershed and improve our streams, parks, and communities.



We welcome your participation! Learn more about our activities and sign up for our newsletter by visiting www.ttfwatershed.org or calling 215.844.8100.



What is a Rain Garden?



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Why a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens and other green infrastructure store and purify rainwater where it falls and allow it to soak into the ground. This helps prevent combined sewer systems from overflowing and polluting our waterways.



When it rains, rainwater passes over—and mixes with—oil, dirt, chemicals, pesticides, and other pollutants as it flows over roads, lawns, and other hard surfaces.

What are the Benefits of Rain Gardens?

- Cleaner water
- Attractive gardens with colorful flowers
- Habitat and food for wildlife
- Reduction in rainwater runoff

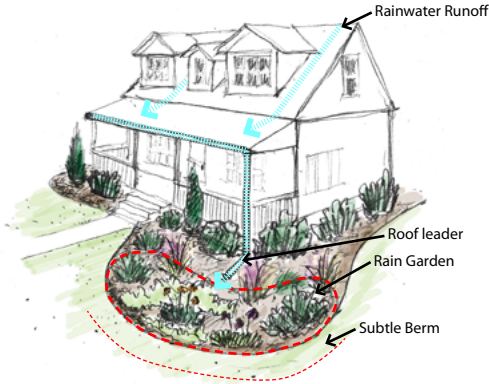
What Does a Rain Garden Look Like?

A raingarden is a shallow depression that can be planted with a wide variety of flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs. The water that enters the rain garden will be taken up by the plants or will slowly infiltrate back into the soil.



In this rain garden, native flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs enhance the building's entrance and provide habitat value.

Can I Build a Rain Garden at My House?



You can build a small rain garden almost anywhere to manage stormwater runoff from hard surfaces, such as roofs, walkways, and roadways. Dig a depression in an open flat area or gently sloping area at least 10 feet from your house.

You can excavate using a shovel, but be sure that there are no underground utilities, including gas, water, or electric. Always call 811 (PA One Call) before digging. You can direct gutters to the rain garden. For vegetation, you can use either seeds or container plants. Native plants are recommended, as they provide habitat value and are adapted to local weather patterns, which means that they require less watering.

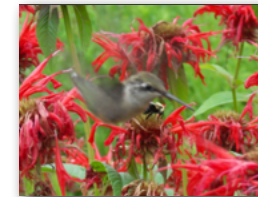


What Types of Plants Should I Use?

Native plants provide the most habitat value. Each site varies depending on the amount of sunlight and type of soil. Here are some examples of native plants that fare well in rain gardens:

Flowers

Aster - *Symphyotrichum* sp.
Bee Balm - *Monarda didyma*
Black-Eyed Susans - *Rudbeckia hirta*
Blue Flag Iris - *Iris versicolor*
New York Ironweed - *Vernonia novaboracensis*
Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*
Red Cardinal Flower - *Lobelia cardinalis*



Bee balm attracts ruby-throated hummingbirds and New York ironwood attracts butterflies.

Trees and Shrubs

Fragrant Sumac - *Rhus aromatica*
Mapleleaf and Arrowwood Viburnum - *Viburnum* sp.
Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
River Birch - *Betula nigra*
Serviceberry - *Amelanchier canadensis*
Winterberry - *Ilex verticillata*

Where Can I Learn More About Rain Gardens?

Please visit our website:

www.ttfwatershed.org/what-you-can-do/residents