

# Rain Gardens: Keeping our Waterways Clean

## Why plant a rain garden?

Rain gardens can improve local water quality by cleaning and absorbing polluted stormwater runoff that flows towards our waterways after a rain or snow. While helping the environment, a rain garden also creates a beautiful, natural habitat providing a spot for birds and butterflies to visit.

## What makes this garden a rain garden?

The Turning Point Rain Garden is situated to protect the Genesee River from stormwater runoff flowing from the adjacent parking lot. When it rains or snow melts, flowing sediments and pollutants are captured by the garden soil. The water-loving plant roots act as filters to clean the runoff before it reaches the Genesee River.

## Can you spot these plants in our garden?



Ostrich fern



Filipendula



Butterfly weed



Anise Hyssop



St. John's Wort



Coneflower



Switch grass



Amelanchier



New England Aster

## Rain Garden Elements

### PLANTINGS:

The best choices for a rain garden are hardy native species that thrive without chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Many rain gardens feature shrubs as well as wild flowers and grasses which slow and absorb stormwater more effectively than lawn areas. The variety of perennials and grasses in this garden will thrive in both wet and dry conditions.

### LANDSCAPING:

Rain gardens are designed with a low point at the center to collect rain and snow melt. Any degree of indentation is useful, from slight dips to large swales.

### LOCATION:

Rain gardens can be created in many areas where stormwater runoff is a concern. They can be near roof gutters, in tree lawns along sidewalks, or next to parking areas to collect rain water before it goes into the storm sewer. This garden's proximity to the Genesee River helps to keep the river free of harmful pollutants.

This project was funded by a grant from the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition and is a joint effort of the City of Rochester, Monroe County, Monroe County Pure Waters District, and Volunteers.

For information go to [www.monroecounty.gov/health/stormwater.php](http://www.monroecounty.gov/health/stormwater.php).