



# Audubon Society

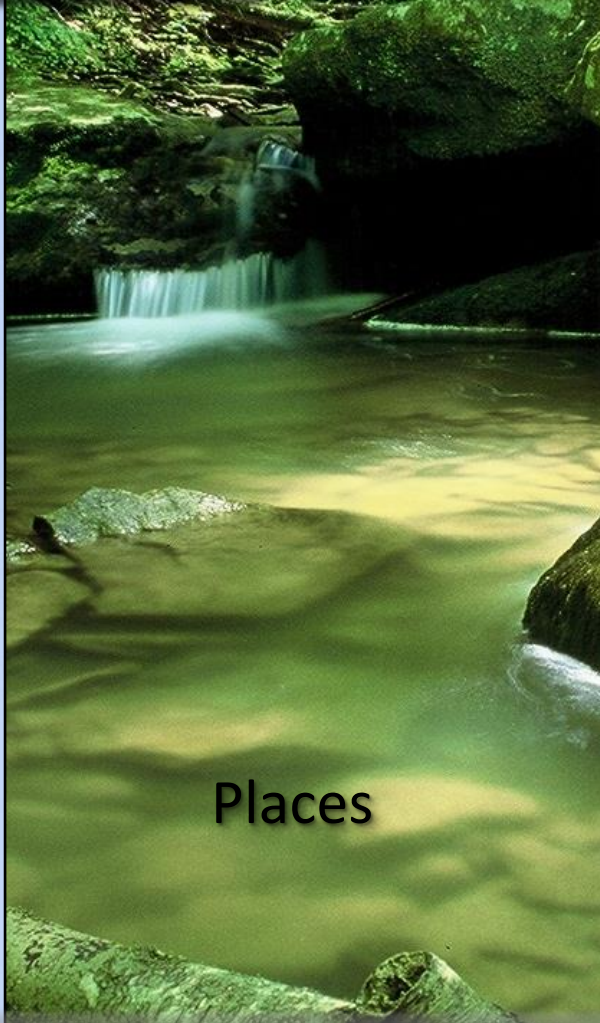
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



Programs



Projects



Places

*Connecting people of southwestern Pennsylvania to birds and nature*

# Audubon Center for Native Plants-Mission

increase the promotion, protection and propagation of native plants, and to integrate native plant education into our current programming at ASWP.



# We All Need Clean Water

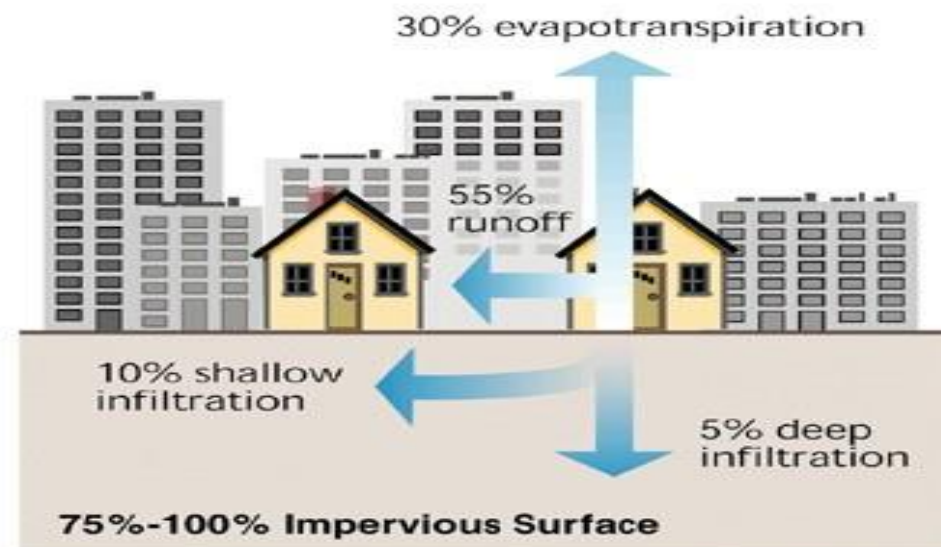
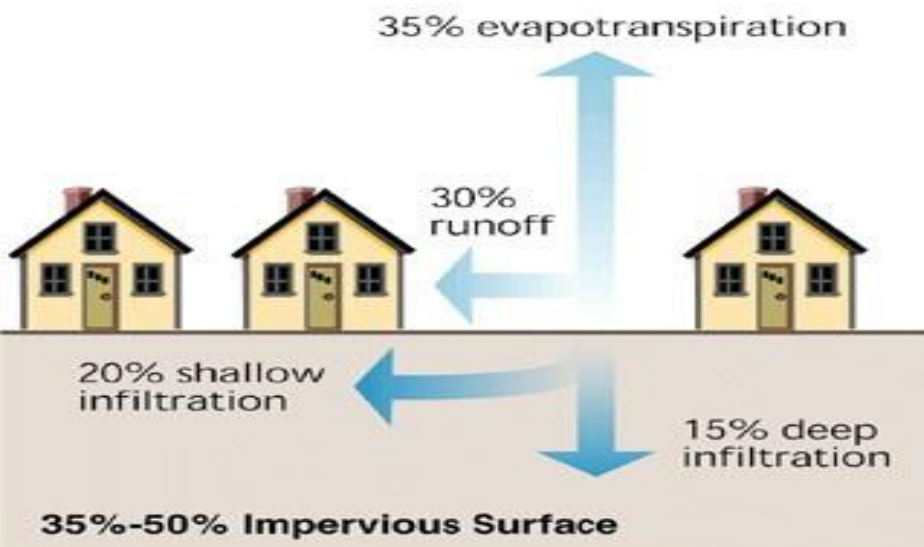
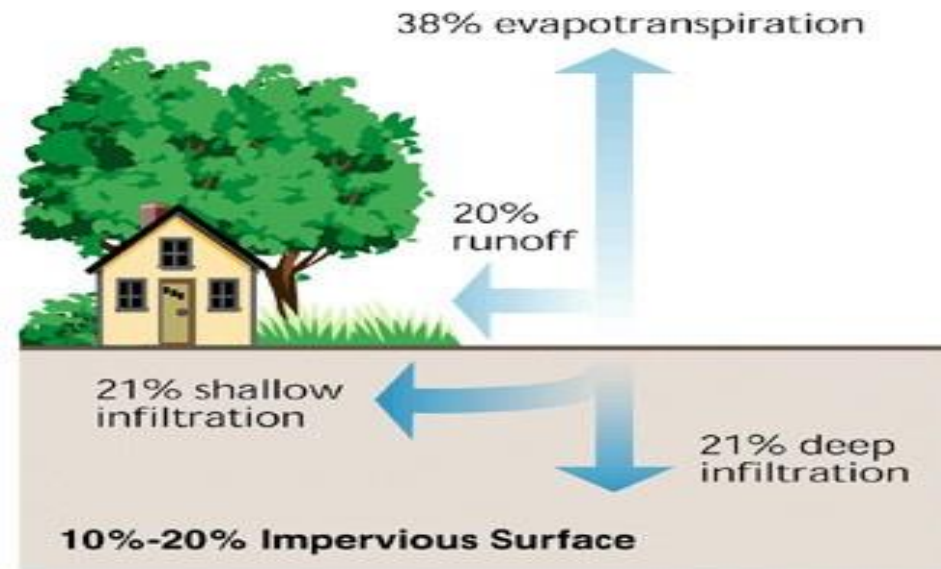
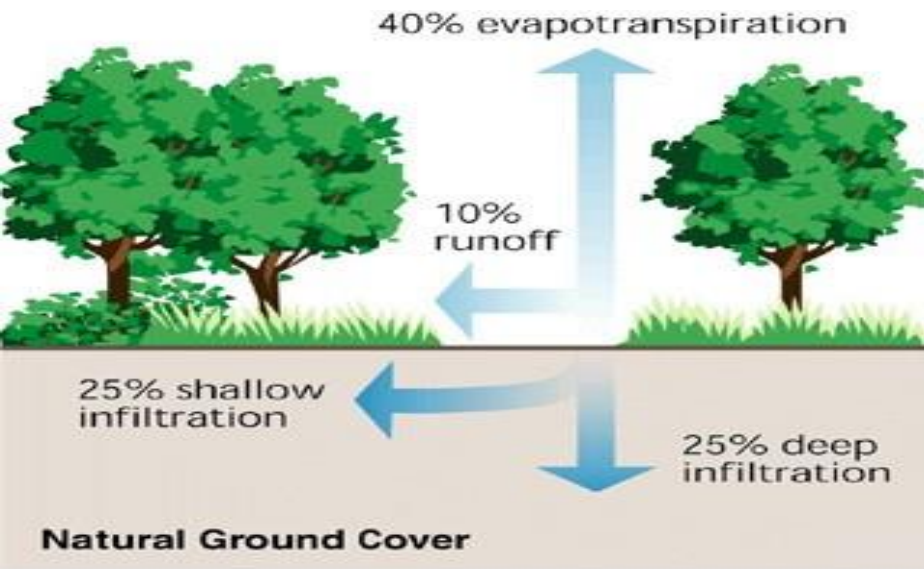


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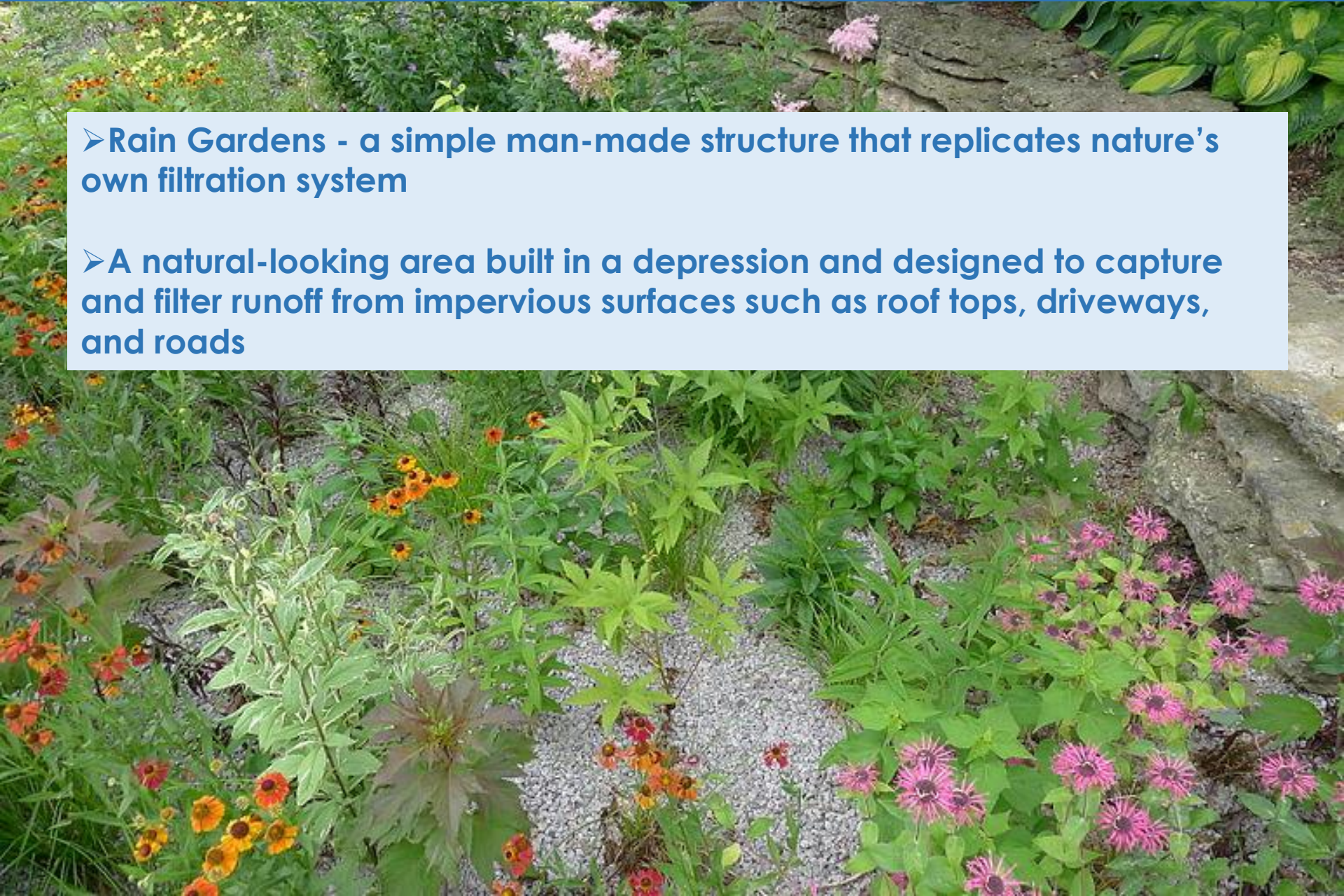
Pslawinski

# How Stormwater Levels Increase



# What is a Rain Garden ?

- Rain Gardens - a simple man-made structure that replicates nature's own filtration system
- A natural-looking area built in a depression and designed to capture and filter runoff from impervious surfaces such as roof tops, driveways, and roads



# A Rain Garden is **NOT**

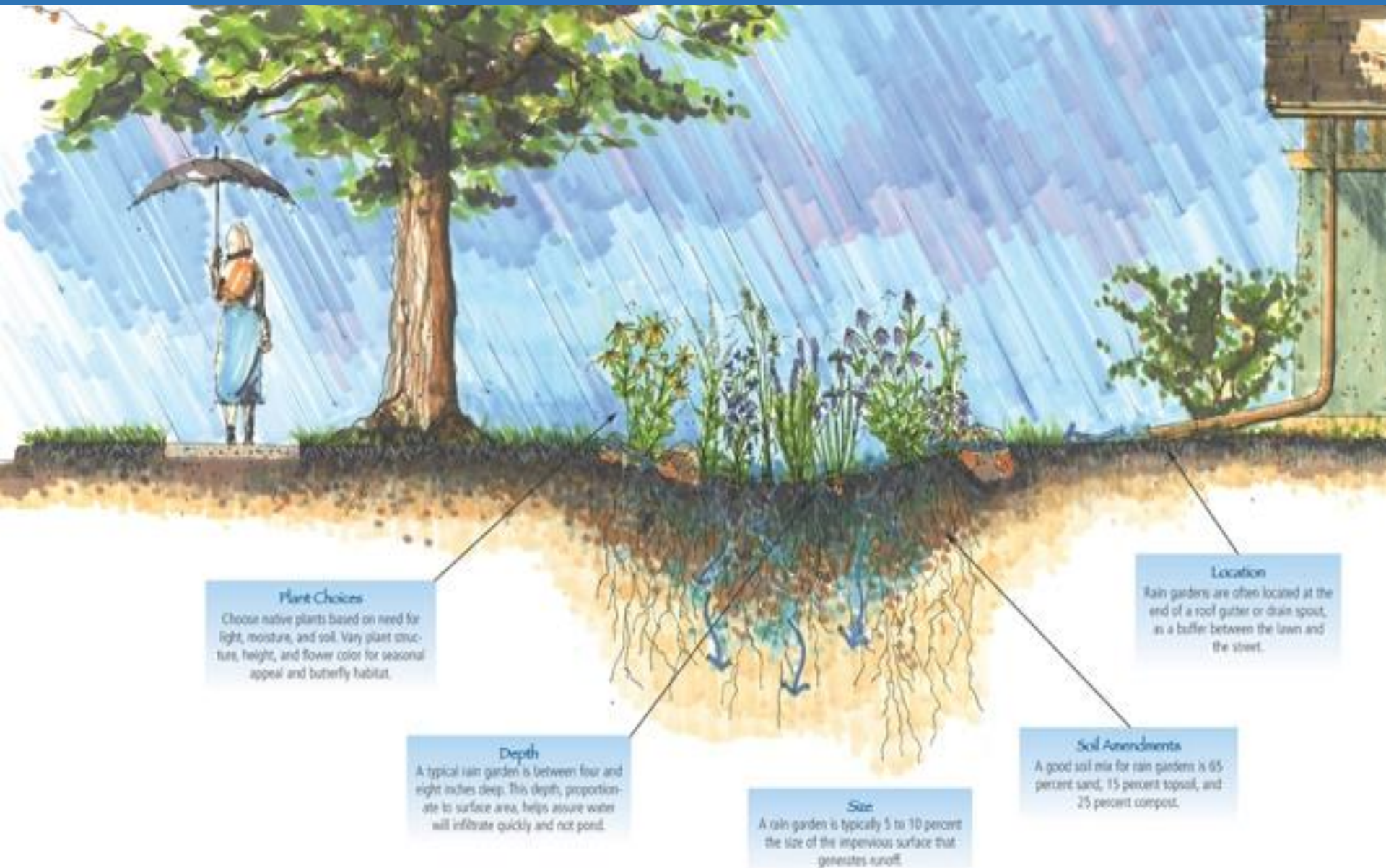
- **Not** a Pond, marsh, or bog
- **Not** a mosquito habitat
- **Not** for summer only
- **Not** harder to maintain or install than other gardens
- **Not** Expensive



# Rain Gardens Are Functional Landscape Features

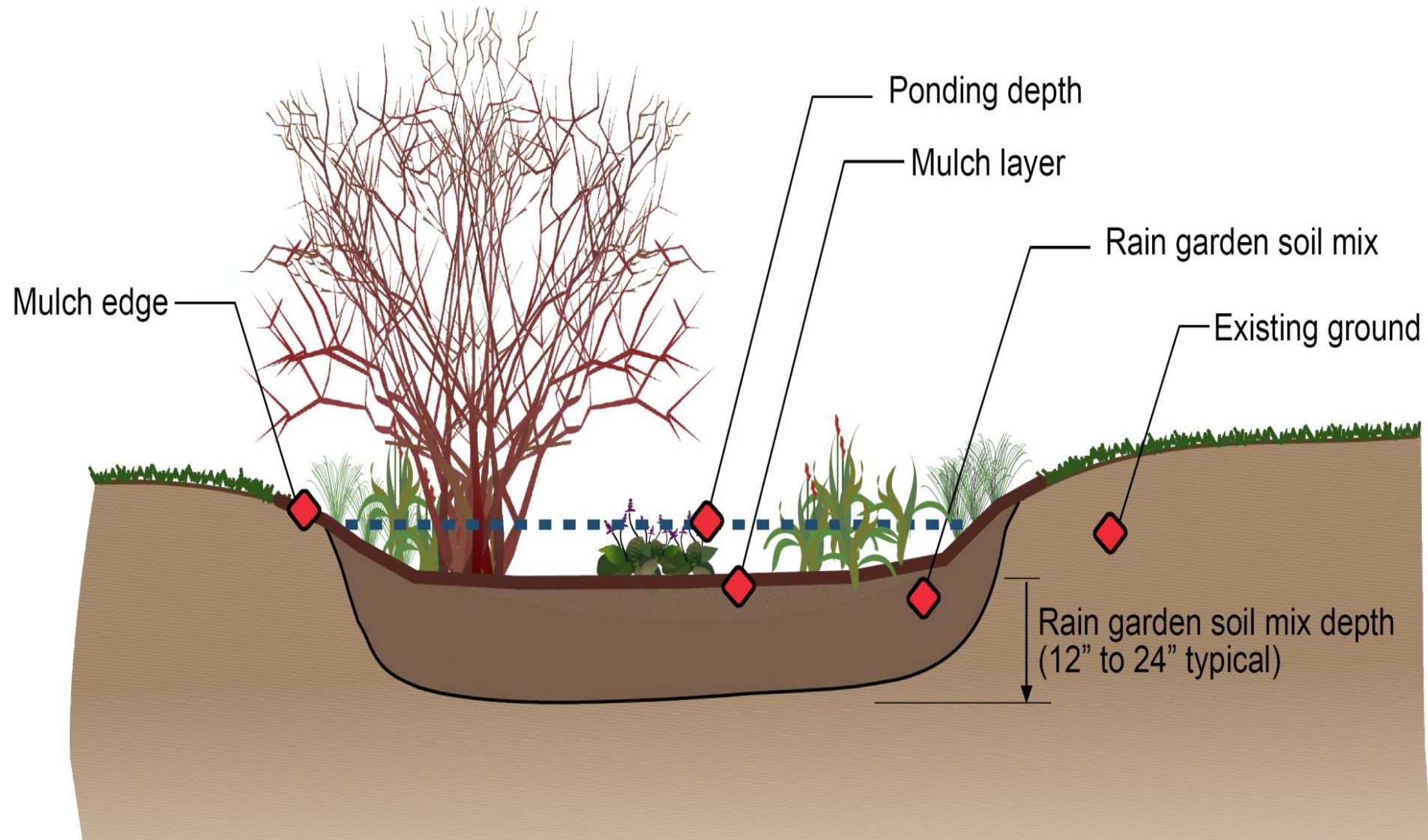


# How a Rain Garden Works

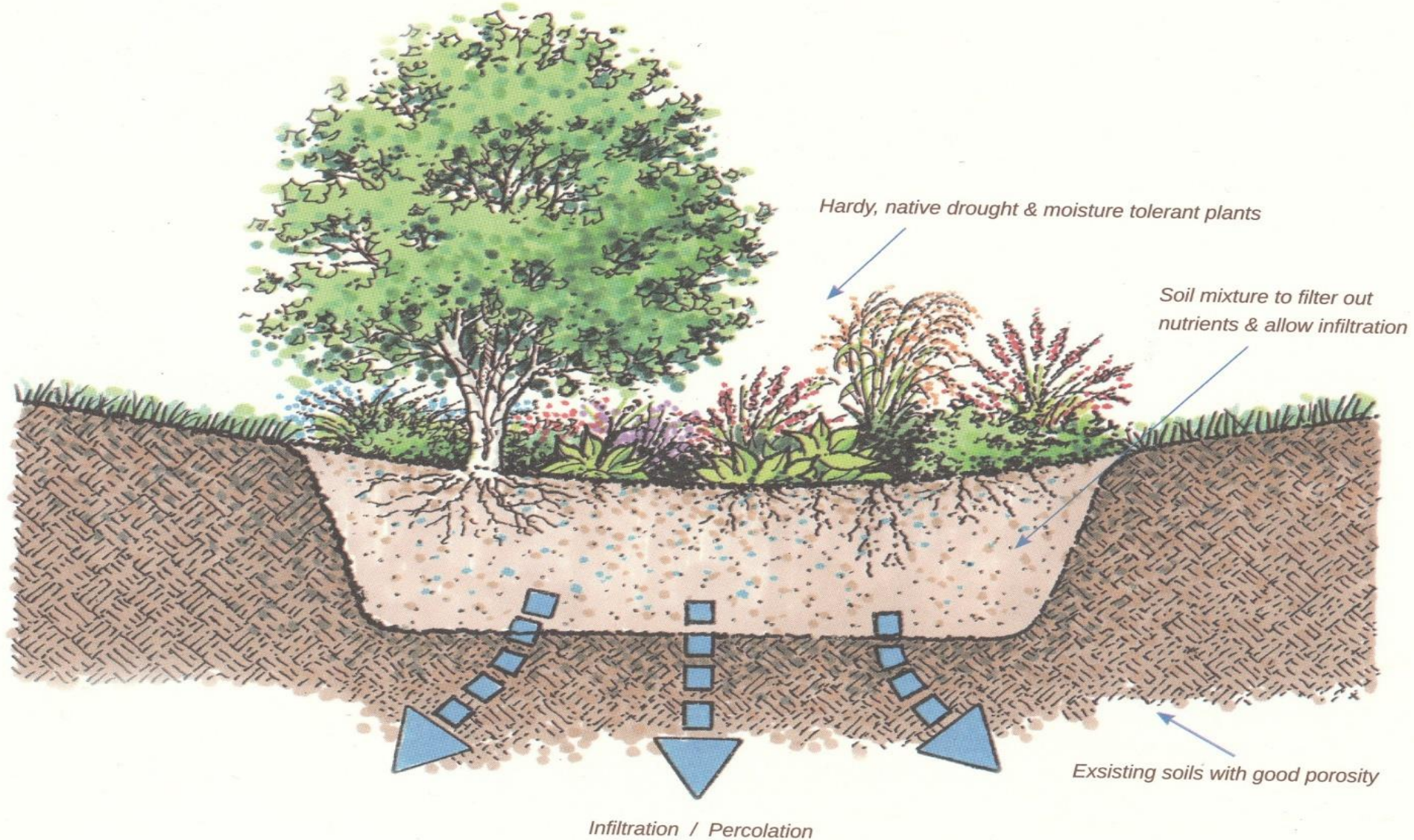




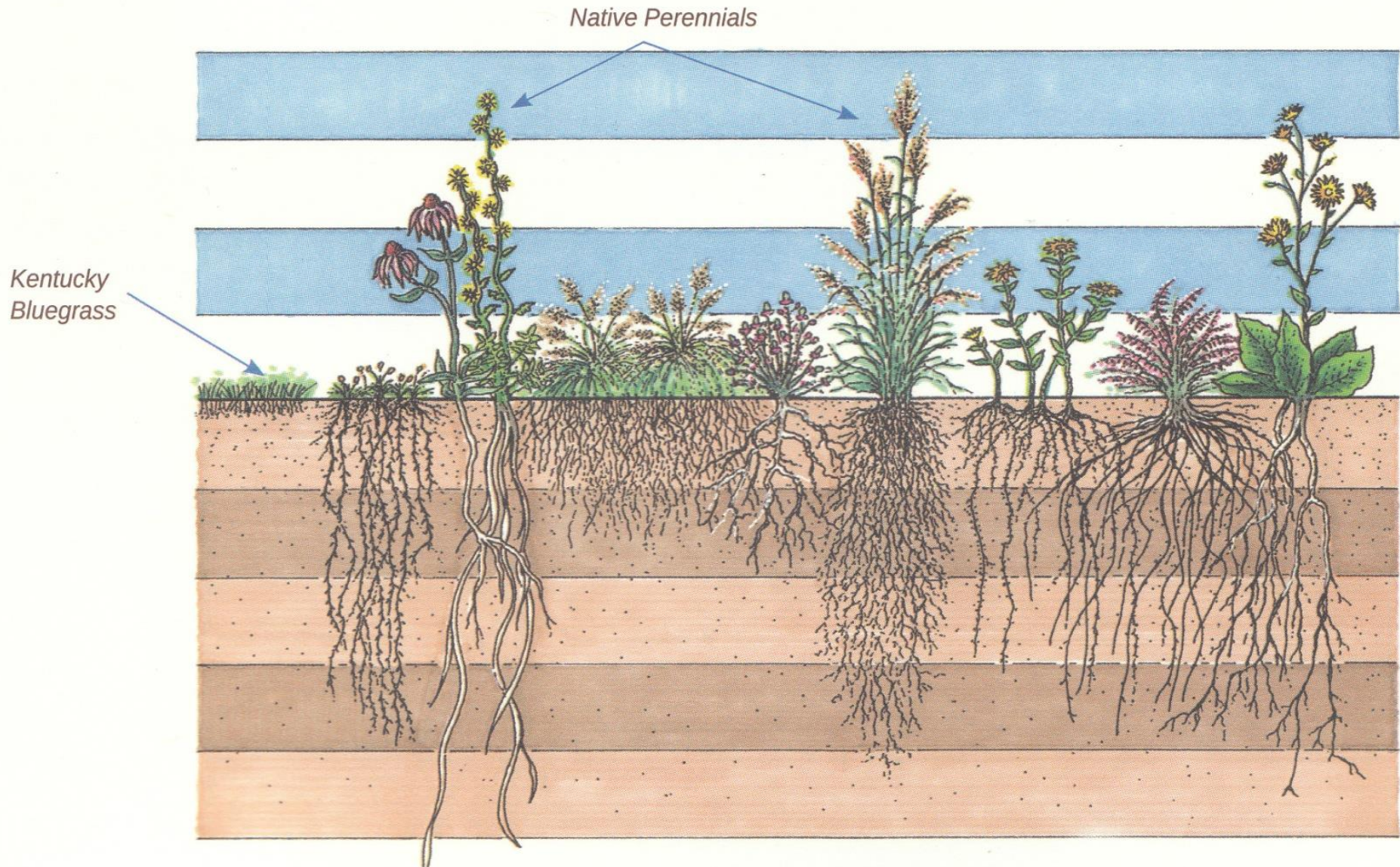
# Anatomy of a Rain Garden



# Rain Garden Function = Hydrology



# Rain Garden Function = Ecology



# Food Niches in Vertical Zones



**The more food niches you provide the greater the diversity of Wildlife you will see**

# Typical Plants Used in Rain Gardens

- Adapted to wet and dry conditions
- Strong root system to hold soil in place
- Tolerant



# A Few Native Plants for Rain Gardens

*Amelanchier arborea* – Serviceberry



*Liatris spicata* – Blazing Star



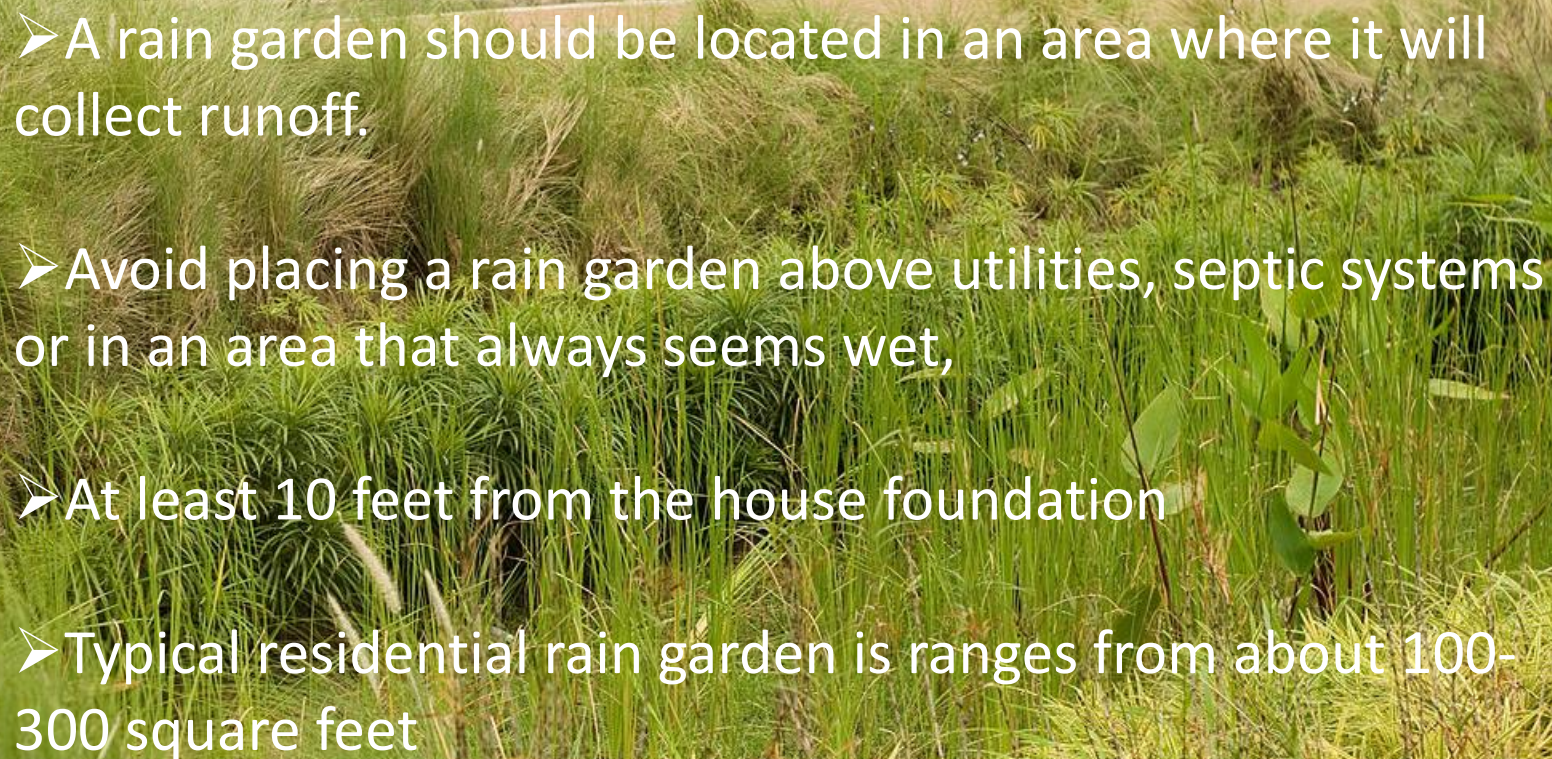
*Lobelia siphilitica* – Blue Lobelia



*Penstemon digitalis* - Beardtongue

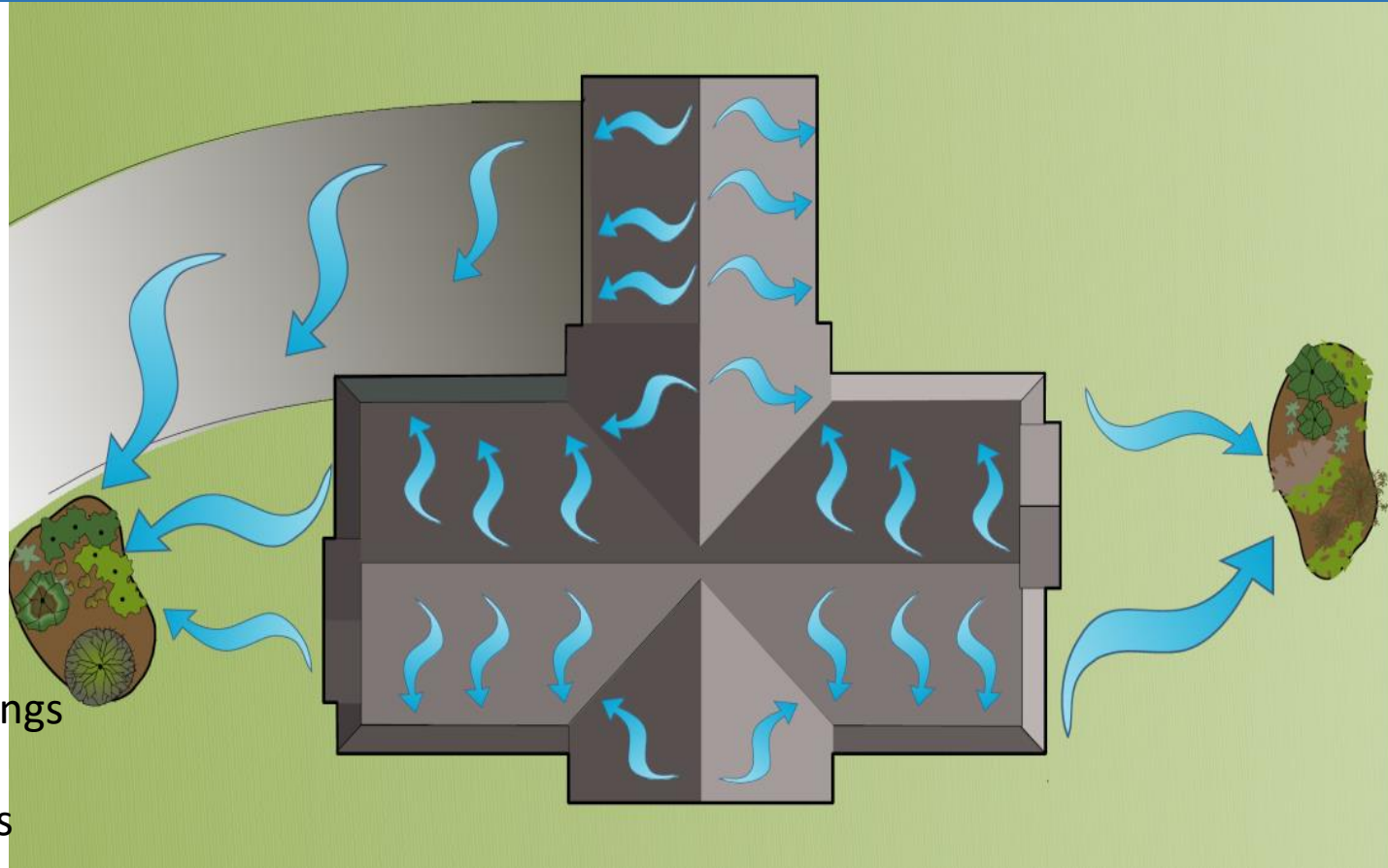


# Rain Garden Location

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- A rain garden should be located in an area where it will collect runoff.
  - Avoid placing a rain garden above utilities, septic systems or in an area that always seems wet,
  - At least 10 feet from the house foundation
  - Typical residential rain garden is ranges from about 100-300 square feet

# Site Assessment – Take Notes & Create a Site Sketch

- Impervious areas
- Downspout locations
- Natural grade
- Flow paths
- Sunny/shady areas
- Existing trees & plantings
- Low spots & wet spots
- Soils and permeability





[raingardenalliance.org](http://raingardenalliance.org)

THREE RIVERS

RAIN



GARDEN

ALLIANCE

Improving our environment one drop at a time