

# Living Streamside

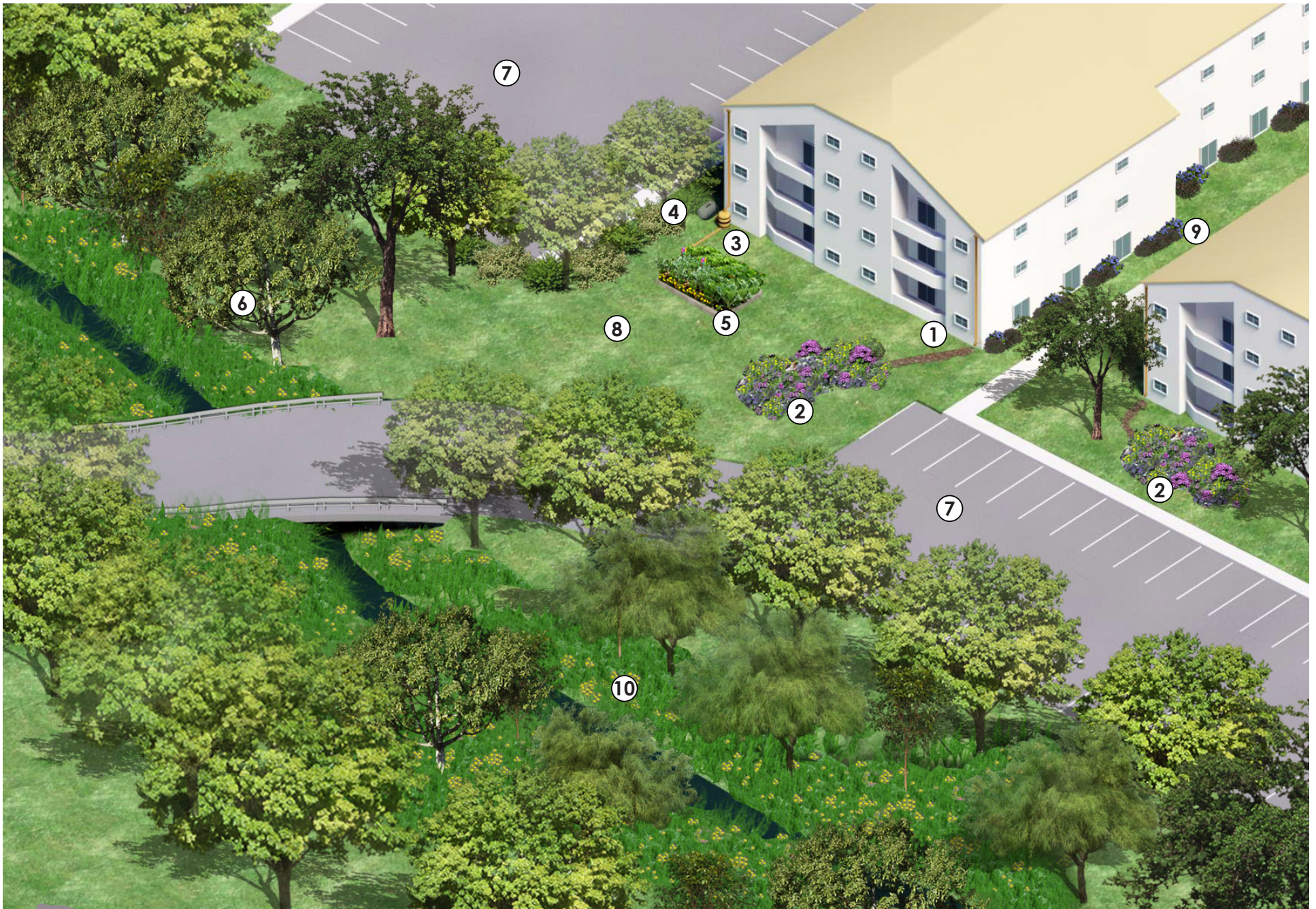
Condos & Apartments

Guide to Designing your Property and Protecting our Watershed



## BACKYARD BUFFER PROGRAM

This guide is intended to help you learn how to protect our streams and rivers with a well thought-out design and a list of projects that you may implement on your property.



- 1. Direct rainfall runoff (stormwater) from roof downspout to a rain garden** by digging a swale/shallow depression or by piping the water from downspout to rain garden to capture stormwater. Overflow from rain barrel can be conveyed to rain garden.
- 2. Build a rain garden** to capture and infiltrate stormwater into the ground (recharging groundwater and stream baseflow). Deep rooted plants filter water and loosen soil (see *Pennsylvania Rain Garden Guide* for more information).
- 3. Install a rain barrel** to capture rooftop stormwater runoff and use this water as a resource for irrigation. Try to use all the water in the barrel between storms so the barrel can capture water from the next rain fall event (see Tip Sheet #6 Rain Barrels for more information).
- 4. Compost bins** are a way to recycle organic yard and household material for garden use. Containerizing compost helps prevent rain from washing the material (excessive nutrients) into the nearby stream.
- 5. Irrigate vegetable garden** with water from a rain barrel (see Tip Sheet #6 Rain Barrels for more information).
- 6. Expand planting areas** with trees, shrubs and perennials to reduce lawn care maintenance/pollution and increase water uptake/filtration, groundwater recharge and habitat.
- 7. Porous/permeable parking/patios/driveways** allow stormwater to soak into the ground (infiltrate) (see Tip Sheet #7 Permeable/Porous Pavers for more information).
- 8. Green lawn basics** such as reducing/eliminating fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use will improve stream water quality (see Tip Sheet #2 *Green Lawn Basics* for more information).
- 9. Foundation plantings** with native species add beauty and butterfly and bird habitat.
- 10. No-mow zone** is a stream buffer where mowing does not occur and Pennsylvania native plants are grown. This improves quality of stormwater reaching the stream, traps sediment, creates habitat, reduces the area of lawn that needs to be mowed and could reduce property loss (see Tip Sheet #1 *No-mow Zone* for more information).



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