



The mission of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) is to enhance the health and vitality of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek and its watershed. We serve as the crucial link connecting residents, businesses and government as neighbors and stewards of this impaired, but critically important 29 square mile watershed in the Philadelphia region. Our watershed includes neighborhoods in North, Northeast, and Northwest Philadelphia as well as the communities of Abington, Cheltenham, Jenkintown, and Rockledge in Montgomery County.

As a partner in the Philadelphia Water Department's *Green City, Clean Waters* program, TTF initiates and supports efforts to restore the health of the watershed and mobilizes its communities as watershed stewards through community outreach, networking, educational programming, and project coordination. TTF increases public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of our watershed and improves watershed 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.

A Citywide Transformation



The Philadelphia Water Department's *Green City, Clean Waters* initiative outlines a 25-year plan to implement a citywide transformation. This initiative will protect and enhance our watersheds by managing stormwater with green infrastructure practices, such as rain gardens. Rain gardens and other rainwater management projects will become more and more common in Philadelphia as the City ramps up its efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows.



Where can I learn more about Rain Gardens?

To learn more about rain gardens, visit the Philadelphia Water Department's website at:

www.phillywatersheds.org/residents.

Look for a rain garden coming near you!

Vernon Park Rain Garden

Working Together for Clean Water

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



Volunteers plant the rain garden.

Project Goals

- To improve and maintain the existing garden beds and general landscaping
- To install a beautiful four-season rain garden that improves water quality and reduces rainwater runoff
- To create an educational site for residents and local school and community groups
- To increase park use



Signature park for the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's LOVE Your Park: Fall Edition!

Why a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens and other green infrastructure practices store and purify rainwater where it falls and allow it to soak into the ground, helping to prevent the combined sewer system 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. Storm drains then collect this rainwater and often send it into combined sewer systems. In large rain events, too much rainwater runoff entering storm drains causes pipes in the combined sewer system to back up and overflow the polluted water into our waterways.

What are the Benefits of Rain Gardens?

- Cleaner water
- Attractive gardens with colorful flowers
- Habitat and food for wildlife, primarily songbirds and butterflies
- Reduction in rainwater runoff volume
- Educational opportunities
- Potential credit towards monthly stormwater charges in Philadelphia

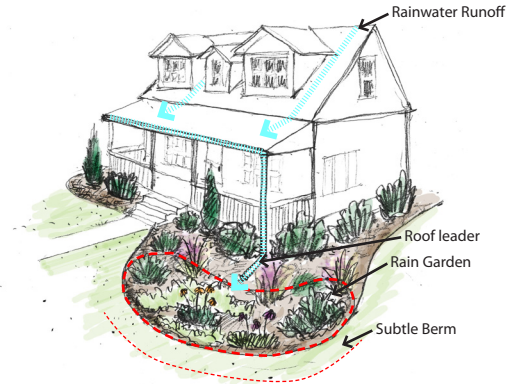
What Does a Rain Garden Look Like?

A rain garden 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 plants or will slowly infiltrate back into the soil.



In this rain garden, native flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs were selected to enhance the entrance of the building and provide habitat value. Trees, shrubs, shredded hardwood mulch, and river stone were used as accents to match the rain garden style.

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, such as 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, requiring less watering.



What Types of Plants Should I Use?

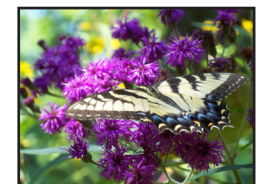
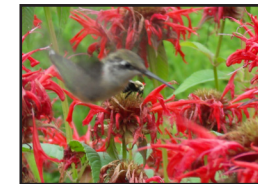
Native plants provide the least maintenance and most habitat value. Each site varies depending on the amount of sunlight and type of soil.

What are Some Recommended Species?

Keep in mind that each site is different, so there is no guarantee that every plant below will thrive in your garden. However, here is a list of recommended species for your rain garden:

Flowers, Grasses, Sedges and Ferns:

Aster - *Symphyotrichum* sp.
Bee Balm - *Monarda didyma*
Black-Eyed Susans - *Rudbeckia hirta*
Blue Flag Iris - *Iris versicolor*
Blue Wild Indigo - *Baptisia australis*
Fox Sedge - *Carex vulpinoidea*
Goldenrod - *Solidago* sp.
Joe-Pye Weed - *Eupatorium purpureum*
Lady Fern - *Athyrium filix-femina*
Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*
New York Ironweed - *Vernonia novaboracensis*
Obedient Plant - *Physotegia virginiana*
Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*
Red Cardinal Flower - *Lobelia cardinalis*
Soft Rush - *Juncus effusus*
Spiderwort - *Tradescantia* sp.
Switchgrass - *Panicum virgatum*
Tickseed - *Coreopsis* sp.
Virginia Bluebells - *Mertensia virginica*
Wild Geranium - *Geranium maculatum*
Virginia Wild Rye - *Elymus virginicus*



Red bee balm attracts the ruby-throated hummingbird and New York ironwood attracts butterflies.

Trees and Shrubs:

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