



# Camden's Rain Gardens

## Making Neighborhoods Healthier and Safer



**What Is A Rain Garden?** A rain garden is like a flower garden. However, a rain garden needs well-drained soil that can absorb water. Rain gardens are created by removing soil that is then mixed with compost and sand to better absorb water. The area excavated for a rain garden will be deeper than for a normal flower garden. After the soil is prepared, a rain garden is planted with a variety of native flowers, shrubs, and grasses. Rain gardens have been built and planted in Camden, including at the Aquarium, in community parks, and near schools.

**How Do Rain Gardens Work?** Rainwater and melting snow from roads, sidewalks, parking lots, rooftops, and patios flows into the rain garden where that water can slowly soak into the ground. There are some pollutants in that stormwater runoff, such as oil, gas, and antifreeze from cars; fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides from lawns; and chemicals from roofing shingles and driveway sealants. The plants, mulch, and soil in a rain garden naturally filter, absorb, and bio-degrade many of these pollutants. By letting that water soak into the ground, rain gardens clean up some of the pollution and reduce flooding in our communities. Rain gardens require some maintenance, just like your flower garden, but they can add beauty and help keep our neighborhoods and our rivers healthy and safer.



**Will A Rain Garden Increase the Number of Mosquitoes?** No. Water in a rain garden should soak into the ground no longer than 48 hours after the rain stops. Eggs laid by mosquitoes usually need 5 to 7 days to go from egg to adult, so a rain garden should not increase mosquito populations.

**Can You Help Take Care of Camden's Rain Gardens?** Yes! Several groups from Camden are working to improve the neighborhoods, parks, and waterways that flow through our city. We would love to hear from you.

**For More Information on Camden's Rain Gardens:** If you have any questions, call Fred at the Delaware Riverkeeper Network at (215) 369-1188, ext. 113 or email [fred@delawariverkeeper.org](mailto:fred@delawariverkeeper.org).

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