

## Why the Crawford Park District has installed a permanent Stormwater Management Demonstration

As natural landscapes give way to developed ones, issues arise that would have been taken care of by nature.

Rooftops, roads, driveways, and parking lots are areas known as impervious surfaces. These are places where storm water cannot seep into the ground; rather, it runs off carrying pollutants into our streams and lakes.

Common pollutants are lawn fertilizers and pesticides. While one wouldn't regard yard waste and grass clippings as pollution, when carried into our water courses, they consume precious oxygen as they decompose, affecting the organisms within our aquatic habitats.

Except during heavy downpours, storm water would naturally soak into the ground. As the water travels through the ground, any pollutants would get filtered and recycled, just like nature intended. Instead, storm water runoff becomes hazardous to humans and wildlife and is the leading cause of poor water quality in the United States.

As a resident of this wonderful place we call Earth, there are actions you can take to help keep our planet healthy and green.

The stormwater management demonstration at Lowe-Volk Park includes: the installation of a rain garden; installation of two (2) rainwater harvesting and reuse systems; improvements to existing wetland and bioretention cells at the park entrance (including native wetland species planting); and the conversion of 5000 square feet of impervious pavement in the parking area into pervious pavement. Additionally, a passive vegetated treatment train will be installed next to the parking area to provide additional retention and treatment of parking area runoff.

By retaining excess stormwater and releasing it at a slower rate, incremental improvement to water quality in the Sandusky River and Lake Erie can be achieved.

If you would like additional resources to learn more about promoting stormwater infiltration on your own property please contact us at the Crawford Park District.

You may also find the following online resources helpful:

[www.crawfordswcd.org](http://www.crawfordswcd.org)

[www.centralohioraingardens.org](http://www.centralohioraingardens.org)

[www.oberfields.com](http://www.oberfields.com)

[www.water.epa.gov](http://www.water.epa.gov)

[www.cfpub.epa.gov](http://www.cfpub.epa.gov)

[www.cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)

Information provided by



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# Rain Gardens & BioRetention Areas

*natural, resourceful ways to improve our water quality*



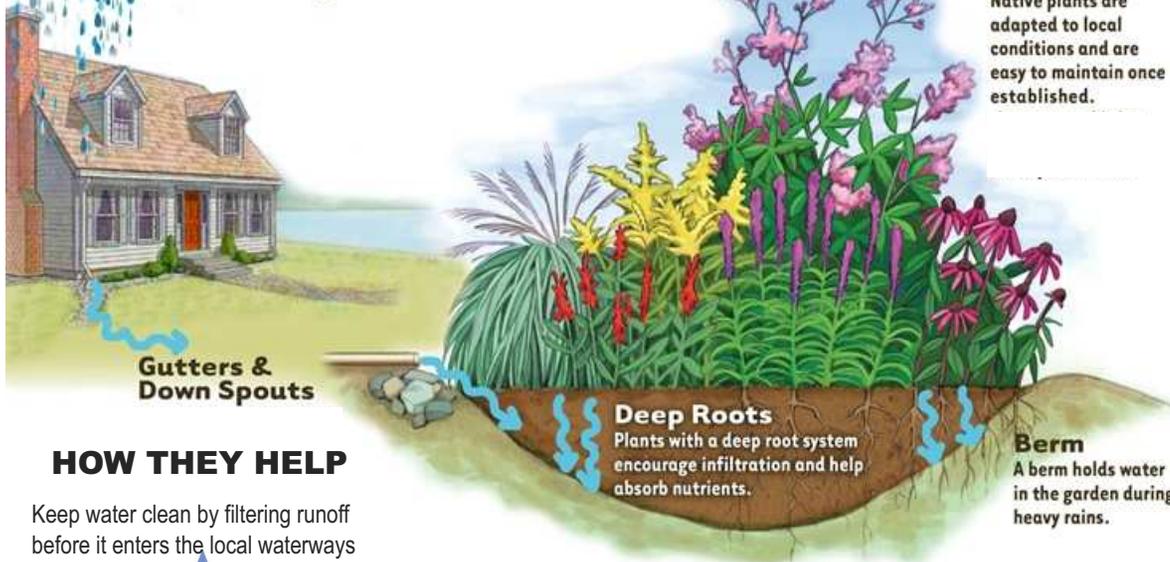
**Crawford County  
Stormwater  
Management  
Demonstration**



*Learning how we can create and keep a healthy local water quality by promoting stormwater infiltration to reduce runoff and keep pollutants out of local waterways.*

A project financed through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency under the provisions of the Surface Water Improvement Fund

## How does a rain garden work?



**Native Plants**  
Native plants are adapted to local conditions and are easy to maintain once established.

### HOW THEY HELP

Keep water clean by filtering runoff before it enters the local waterways

Alleviate problems associated with flooding and poor drainage

Recharge the ground water supply

Enhance the beauty of your yard

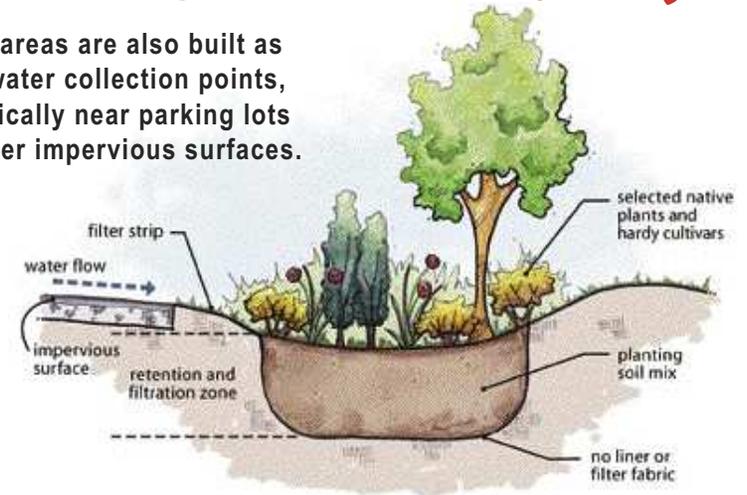
Provide natural habitats and food sources for local wildlife, including birds and butterflies

## INSTALL A "GREEN" AND LOVELY RAIN GARDEN OR A

A rain garden is meant to be a collection point of roof runoff, not a pond!

## BIORETENTION PLANTED AREA

These areas are also built as stormwater collection points, but typically near parking lots and larger impervious surfaces.



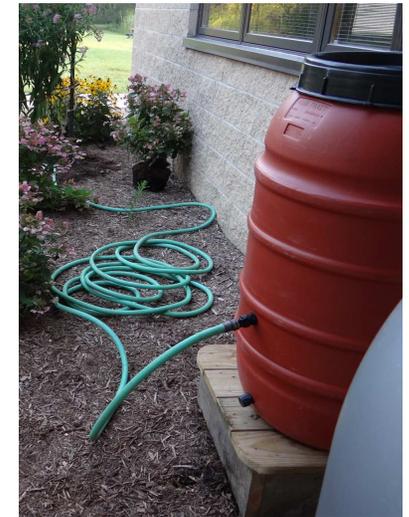
## THE PERKS OF USING RAIN BARRELS

Divert stormwater from downspouts so it can be recycled in many ways to increase the "greenness" of your own property.

Reduces flooding in your yard or basement.

It provides an ample supply of "soft water" containing no chlorine, lime or calcium making it perfect for homeowners to use it in gardens, flower pots, as well as car and window washing.

A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months.



Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to collect and store water so you have a FREE consistent supply of clean, fresh water for outdoor use.



Installing a simple rain garden with the proper native plants will help improve local water quality by naturally slowing down stormwater flow and letting it percolate into the soil.