

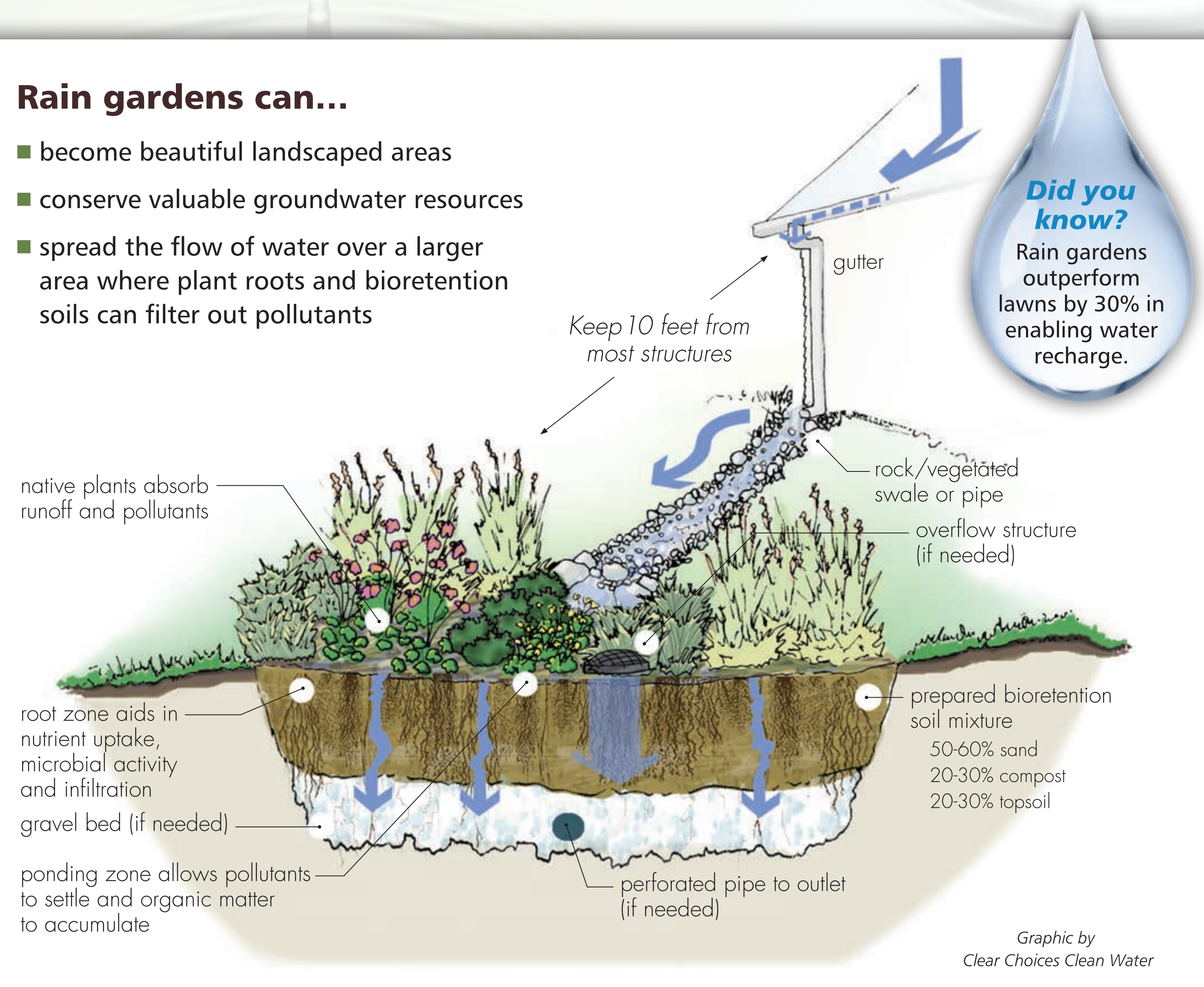
Rain Gardens

During a rain event, stormwater rushes across hard surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, buildings, and rooftops, finding its way directly into waterways and storm drains. Stormwater can transport pollutants such as road salts, motor oil, grass clippings, fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, litter, and sediments into rivers and streams, causing pollution.

A rain garden is a shallow depression planted with native flora. When located near a runoff source like a downspout or driveway, it can capture rainwater and mitigate these negative effects.

Rain gardens can...

- become beautiful landscaped areas
- conserve valuable groundwater resources
- spread the flow of water over a larger area where plant roots and bioretention soils can filter out pollutants



Why plant native vegetation?

Native wildlife is adapted to indigenous flora species, so planting native varieties will attract butterflies, hummingbirds, pollinators, and other wildlife to your garden. The plants' long roots also deliver water deeper into the ground.

Some great native plant options:



Blackeyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis



Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea



Winterberry Holly
Ilex verticillata



Joe-Pye Weed
Eupatorium purpureum



Sweet Pepperbush
Clethra alnifolia

Network with neighbors!
A New Jersey rain garden receiving runoff from a 1,000 sq. ft. surface can recharge about 25,000 gallons per year into ground water. A neighborhood with 40 rain gardens could recharge 1,000,000 gallons per year.

You Can Help!

Manage stormwater by...

- redirecting downspouts and water from hard to porous surfaces
- installing a rain garden on your property to conserve and clean water
- helping to install a rain garden on a public property
- maintaining a vegetated buffer if you live adjacent to a waterway
- installing porous pavement that allows water to pass through it and soak into the ground
- properly disposing of animal waste
- never dumping anything into a storm drain
- never fertilizing before a rainfall

A special thank you to
Rutgers Rain Garden Information Center



Para obtener versión en español, visite:
cumauriceriver.org/signs/04s.html

