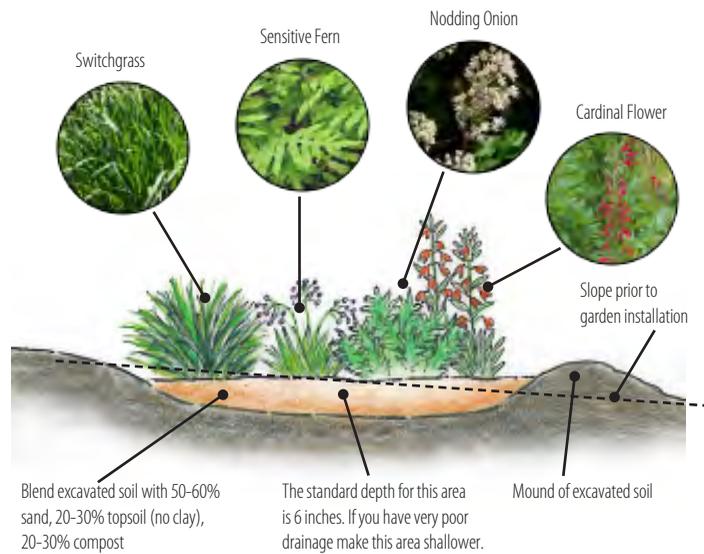
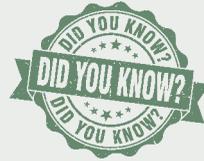


## EXAMPLE OF A RAIN GARDEN



### What is a native plant?

A plant that was growing in the Great Lakes Region before 1700. There are roughly 1,800 native plants in Michigan. Cultivars of native plants provide even more options.



## BENEFITS OF NATIVE LANDSCAPING:

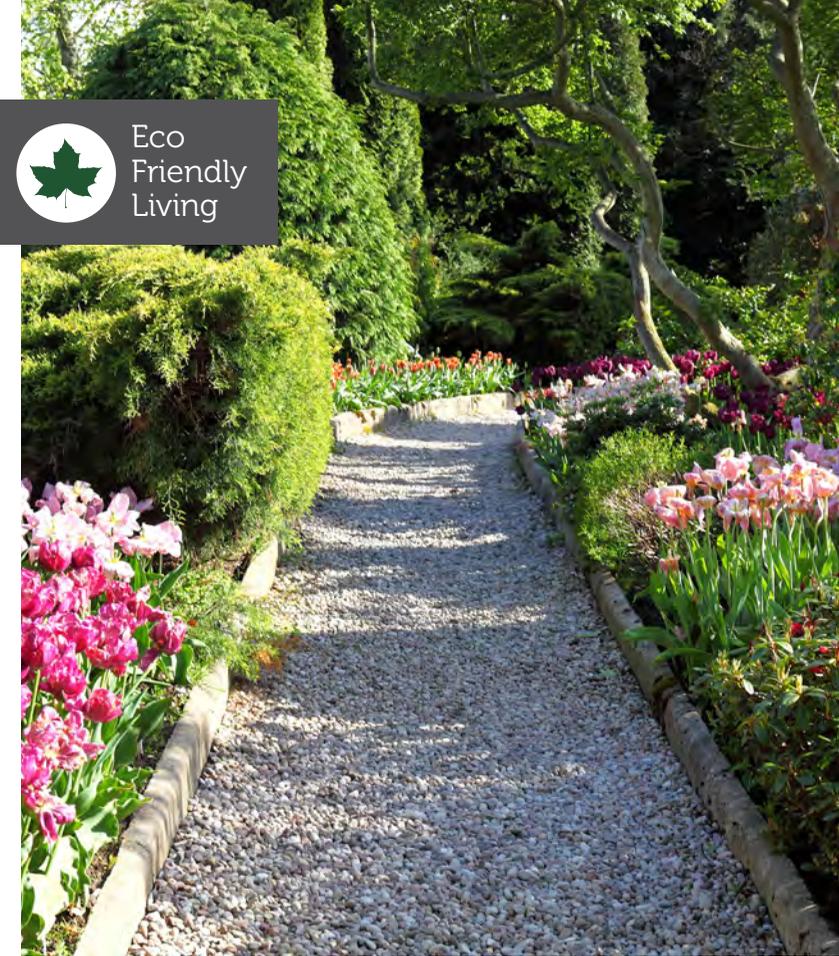
- Reduce water usage because the plants are naturally adapted to our local conditions.
- Deep rooted plants will extract pollutants from the ground and store the contaminants
- These plants are less prone to insect and disease problems reducing the need to use pesticides and fertilizers
- Help nourish soil and prevent erosion
- Deep rooted plants and rain gardens can help prevent flooding by storing rainfall for a short period of time
- Lower the overall impact on the surrounding environment
- Create beauty in all seasons
- Generate a sense of place and heritage
- Require less work and cost less to maintain over time

### EXAMPLES OF NATIVE GARDEN TYPES

- Rain gardens are filled with deep rooted plants that catch and store rainfall for short periods of time. They can help solve drainage issues in the yard.
- Butterfly gardens consist of plants that attract butterflies and certain moths. Many of these gardens try to create an inviting environment for butterflies and moths to lay their eggs.
- Prairie gardens contain mainly native grasses, herbs, shrubs, and wildflowers.
- Formal gardens are carefully designed gardens with walking paths and sitting areas utilizing a variety of native plants.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Michigan Native Plant Producers Association: [www.mnppa.org](http://www.mnppa.org)  
 Rain Gardens of West Michigan: [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org)  
 The Butterfly Website: [butterflywebsite.com](http://butterflywebsite.com)  
 Michigan Wildflower Association: [www.wildflowersmich.org](http://www.wildflowersmich.org)  
 Pittsfield Dept. of Utilities & Municipal Services: [www.pittsfield-mi.gov](http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov)  
 Washtenaw County: [www.ewashtenaw.org/raingarden](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/raingarden)



Eco Friendly Living Series

# NATIVE LANDSCAPING

A Homeowners Guide

Pittsfield Charter Township  
 6201 W. Michigan Avenue | Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
[www.pittsfield-mi.gov](http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov) | [info@pittsfield-mi.gov](mailto:info@pittsfield-mi.gov)

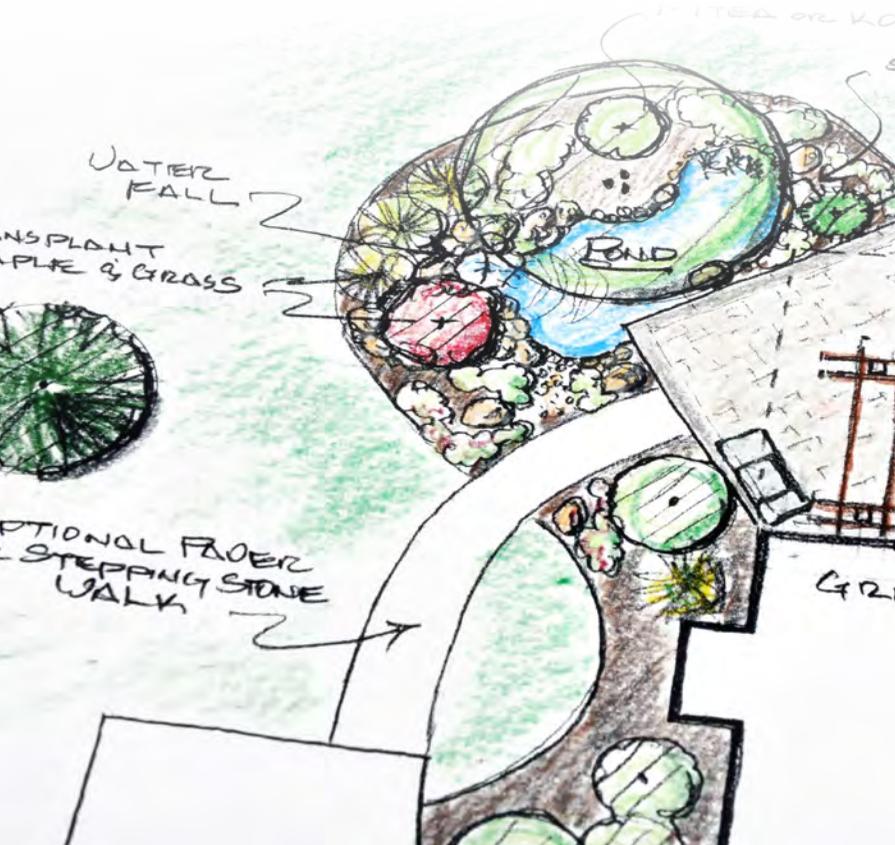


Prairie at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum

# GETTING STARTED

## Ask Yourself...

- How do I use my yard?
- How would I like to use it in the future?
- What is my yard like? Where is it sunny? Shady?
- Do I have any drainage problems? If so, where?
- Are there views I would like to enhance or hide?
- How much money do I have to complete the project?
- What is my budgetary timeline for completing my project?



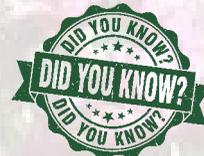
## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- 1 Install hardscapes (paths, edges, sidewalks, etc.) and underground irrigation system (if desired)
- 2 Create planting beds before installing turf
- 3 Plant trees and shrubs
- 4 Place plants in the beds in the order you choose

Plan your new design by using a piece of graph paper to visualize your garden. Create a scale (i.e. 1 in. = 10 ft.) and plan using mature plant sizes as your guide.

## BE A COURTEOUS NEIGHBOR AND CONSIDER...

- How your landscape design will affect neighboring property views
- The impact of your landscaping choices on surrounding properties
- If the character of your proposed landscape is compatible with the character of the neighborhood and Township
- Creating a 1-foot wide buffer strip that is maintained at no more than 10-inches tall at the perimeter of your yard
- Native landscaping done in easements and right-of-ways shall not obstruct pedestrian and vehicular visibility



Consider using porous pavement instead of asphalt for pathways. Options such as gravel, pervious concrete, mulch, bark, and paving stones allow water to infiltrate the land.

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

**Yard conditions:** Determine which areas are most appropriate for plants needing a lot of sunlight or shade. Decide which areas of your yard are prone to stagnant water accumulating and place deep rooted plants there.

**Plant Texture:** Incorporate different textures to add interest to your garden (i.e. bushy shrubs, feathery leafed plants).

**Proportion:** Keep the size of plants proportional to the environment around you (i.e. small plants in small spaces)

**Foliage color and seasonal interest:** Think about how your garden will look 365 days a year. You may want to add evergreens and other plants that thrive in winter months to your landscape.

**Height variation:** Consider how groundcover, low plants, trees, tall grasses, etc. will add visual interest.

**Maintenance:** Consider the cost and timeline for maintaining (weeding, mulching, trimming, mowing, adding soil, etc.) your natural landscape.

