RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens soak in water that runs off roofs and parking lots; removing pollutants, reducing flooding, and recharging groundwater. This garden helps keep our local rivers & water sources clean.

1 A rain garden is a low point in the ground with vegetation, including native flowers, shrubs, and trees, that provides environmental benefits.

2 When it rains, water flows down the streets into drains. Rain gardens instead collect runoff before it reaches storm drains.

3 Plants filter contaminants from stormwater runoff before the water reaches nearby rivers and lakes.

4 Plant root systems create tunnels that help more water filter into the ground.

5 This infiltration recharges local groundwater in aquifers.

6 This process improves water quality and slows the flow of stormwater, helping keep our lakes clean.

7 Rain gardens provide habitat for native birds and butterflies, while also preventing standing water where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

DID YOU KNOW?
The roots of native plants can grow up to 15 feet deep!

PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP

www.pittsfield-mi.gov

NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

require lower maintenance and have deeper root systems than non-native species. They are more adaptable to local soil and weather and more resistant to insects and diseases. Here are examples of species native to Michigan.

BUTTONBUSH:
Easy to identify with round white flowers that resemble pincushions; attracts bees and butterflies.

COMMON NINEBARK:
A tough, cold-resistant shrub with delicate, white flowers and attractive, striped peeling bark.

DOGWOOD:
A hardy tree unique for its fragrant white flowers.

HINOKI CYPRESS:
An evergreen tree, originally native to central Japan, successful in cold climates.

NEW JERSEY TEA:
Named for a Revolutionary Era practice, when its leaves were used as a substitute of imported tea; a favorite of butterflies.

RED MAPLE:
The most abundant tree in North America; also one of the most identifiable with vibrant, red leaves.

SERVICEBERRY:
Blooms with white flowers in early spring, produces dark berries that attract flocks of hungry birds.

SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL:
A bush with pale yellow flowers, a popular choice in cold and dry climates.