

Rain Garden Workshop

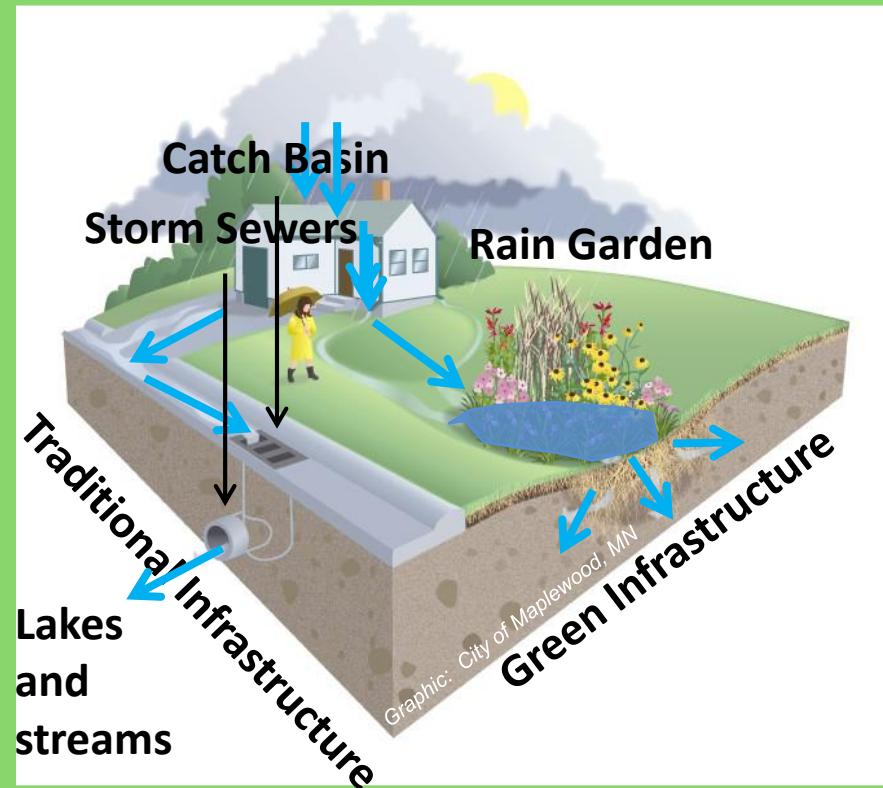


Welcome!

Rain Garden Basics

What is a rain garden?

- A dry depression in the landscape
- Planted with native perennial flowers and grasses
- Catches and infiltrates water from roofs, driveways, and sidewalks



Why are rain gardens important?

- Reduce stormwater runoff
 - Pollutants
 - Volume/flooding
- Recharge groundwater
- Beautify neighborhoods
- Natural landscaping
- Attract butterflies and birds



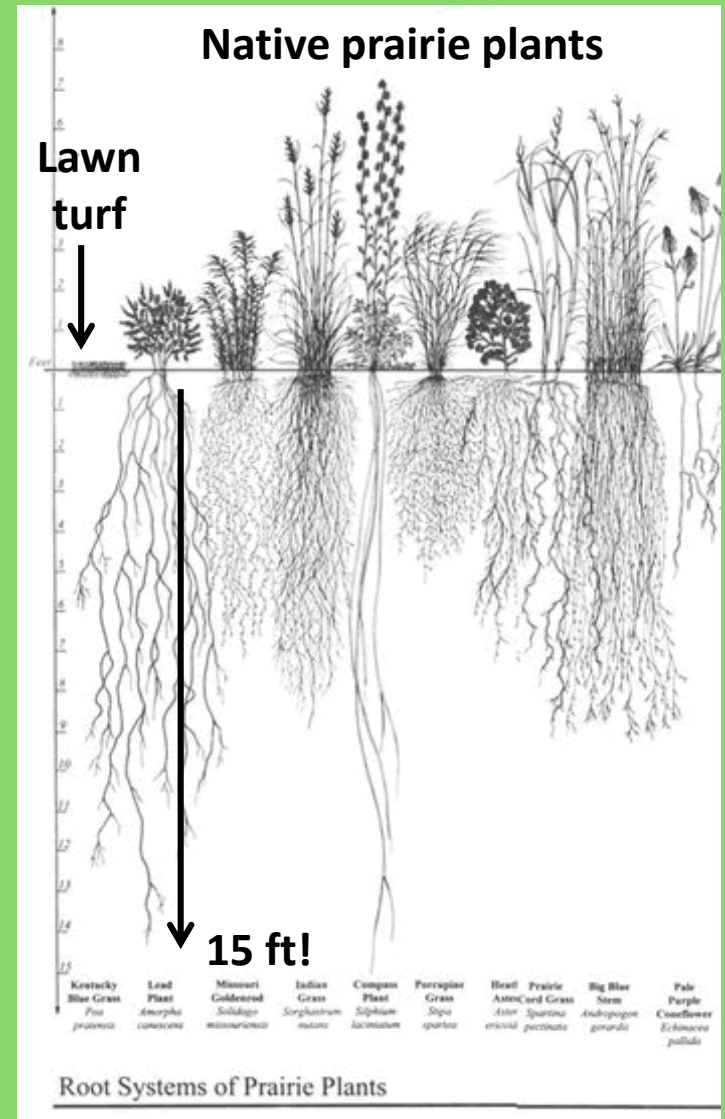
How do rain gardens work?

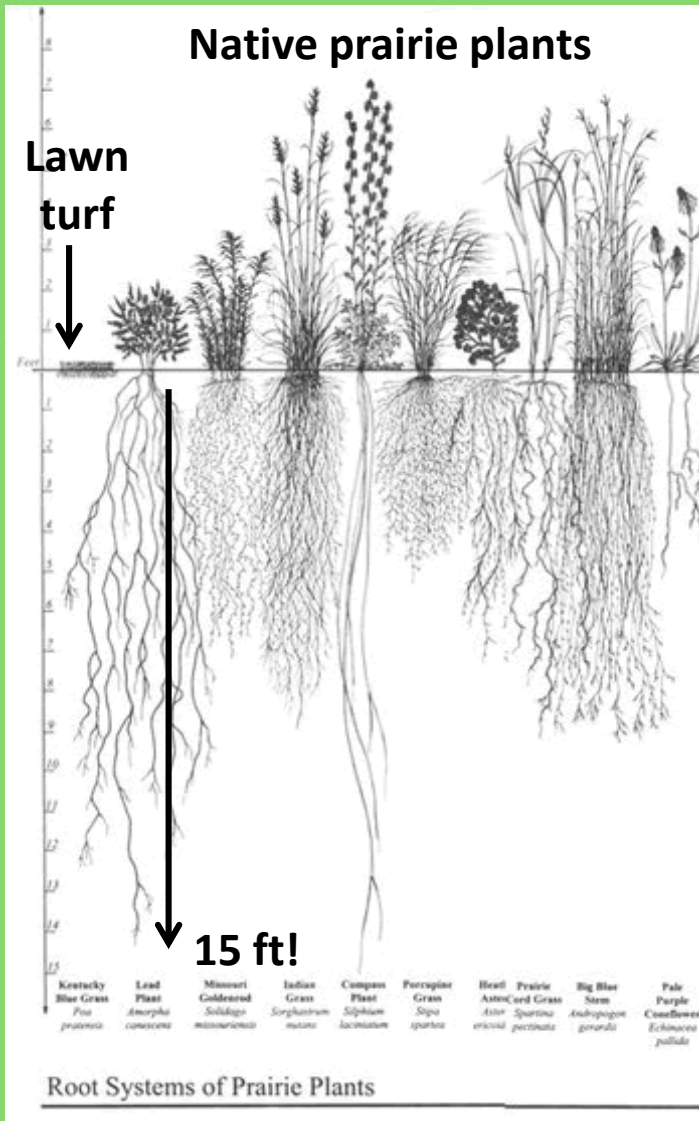


- Shallow depressions (3" to 12" deep)
- Surfaces should be dry within 48 hours of rain (or less)
- Soil amendments needed (compost and/or sand)
- Planted with deep-rooted native prairie plants

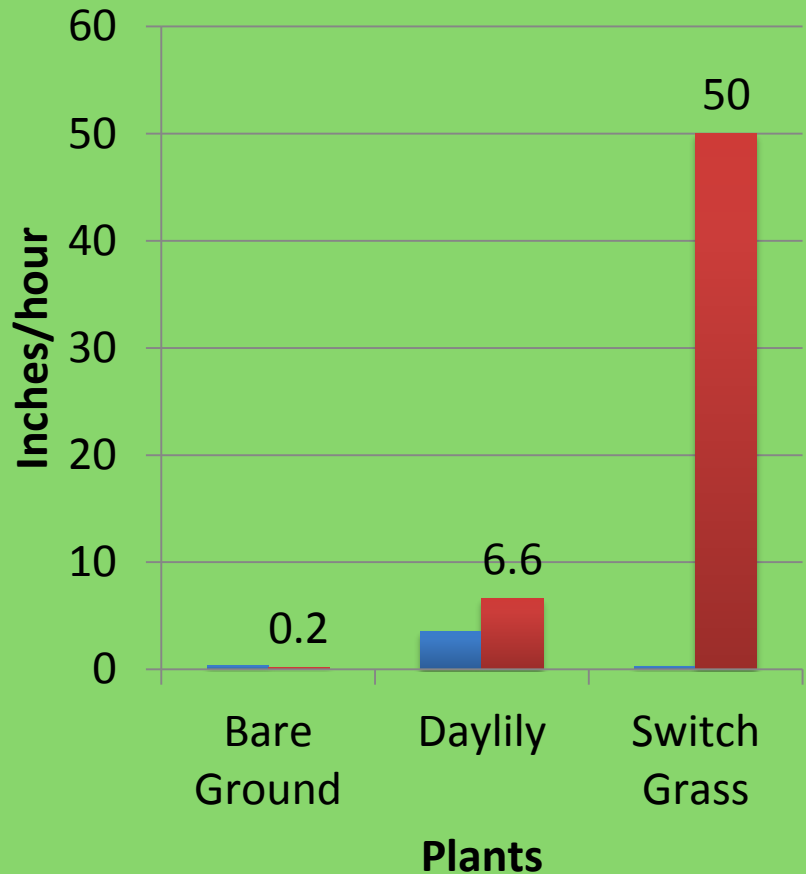
Why Use Native Plants?

- Hardy perennials tolerate ponding and summer droughts
- Don't require fertilizers, pesticides, or excessive labor
- They have deep root systems (8 -15 feet!) that help soils infiltrate water faster
- Flowers attract beneficial birds, butterflies, and dragonflies.





Water Infiltration Rate of Native vs. non-Native Plants after 3 years



- Initial Infiltration Rate - inches/hour
- Final Infiltration Rate - inches/hour

Owatonna Rain Gardens

22nd St. Townhome Assoc.



Rose St. Rain Garden

***across from United Prairie Bank**



Mosher Ave. Rain Garden