Rain Gardens Support Pollinators

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What: A garden that lies below the level of its surroundings, designed to absorb runoff.
• Runoff is directed from impermeable surfaces to rain garden
• Water is slowly filtered through deep rooted plants, toxins and pollutants are diluted
• Clean water recharges groundwater reservoirs

Purpose:
• Beautiful and efficient way to collect rainwater runoff
• Reduces strain on stormwater management systems
• Recharges groundwater
• Reduces flooding and soil erosion

How Rain Gardens Help Pollinators:
• Pollinators, such as native bees, butterflies, and honey bees prefer native plants to exotic or introduced plants
• Rain gardens provide habitat and food sources to pollinators throughout the season

Native Plants in Rain Gardens:
• Native plants are adapted to the local environment and can handle extreme weather compared to non-native plants
• Typically rain gardens are needed where the soil has a high clay density, but native wildflowers and prairie grasses are adapted to break up the soil. They help to maximize water infiltration and prevent water pooling.
• Native plants do not require extra care after establishment.
• Native prairie grasses have deep roots that absorb water and hold soil in place.

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Purple Coneflower: Attracts bumble bees, eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies, leaf cutter bees

Swamp Milkweed: Attracts monarchs, hummingbird clearwing moths, skipper butterflies

Fragrant Hyssop: Attracts long-horned bees, small resin bees, silver spotted skipper butterflies, great spangled butterflies

Purple Coneflower:

Swamp Milkweed:

Fragrant Hyssop:

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