

Lake Lansing South Rain Garden



Where does parking lot runoff go?

Storm water runoff from this area enters the sedge meadow across the parking lot. It then flows into Lake Lansing and a creek to the north, which are habitat for fish, turtles, birds and other wildlife. Eventually, most runoff percolates into the groundwater, a source of our drinking water.

Runoff contains salt, petroleum seepage from cars and pavement, and other unhealthy substances. Wetlands have an important role in filtering water. However, they are also natural habitats that are sensitive to pollutants.

How does a rain garden work?

Rain gardens host plants that prefer wet areas, such as depressions or swales where water drains slowly. This rain garden was designed to channel and filter the parking lot runoff *before* it drains into sensitive wildlife habitat. These Michigan native plants also provide nectar and pollen for native bees, butterflies and birds, and beauty for us!

You can plant a rain garden wherever water pools or seeps into the soil slowly. See <https://www.raingardens.org/>



This rain garden is dedicated to Lake Lansing Parks Manager Pat Witte, in appreciation of his strong support of the community and environmental stewardship



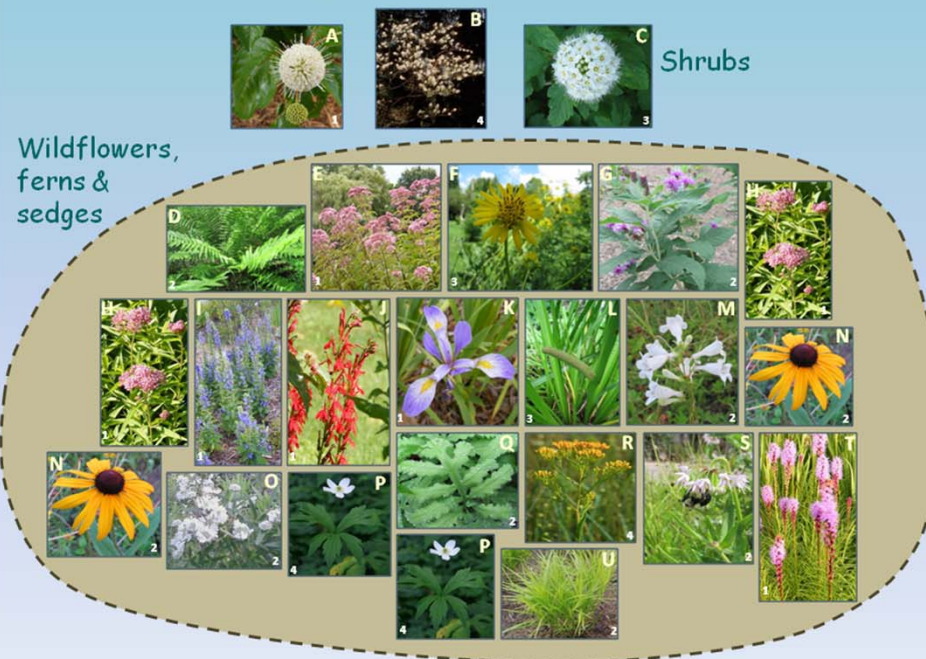
The following organizations and individuals have contributed generously to the rain garden project:

Financial support and garden materials:
The Harold & Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation
and Wildflower Association of Michigan
Wildtype Nursery, Mason, MI
Wild Ones, Red Cedar Chapter
Ingham County Parks

Design: Laurie Kaufman, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative
Planning: Leslie Kuhn, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative
Installation: Lansing Navy League Cadet Corps, Nicholas Sanchez & Pat Witte (Ingham County Parks), and Jim Hewitt & Laurie Kaufman (Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative)
Garden care: Nicholas Sanchez (Ingham County Parks)
Site photos: Leslie Kuhn & Laurie Kaufman (Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative) and Pat Witte (Ingham County Parks)



Native Michigan Plants in the Rain Garden



Native Plant Key

- A - Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- B - Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)
- C - Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
- D - Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
- E - Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)
- F - Prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)
- G - Ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*)
- H - Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- I - Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
- J - Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- K - Southern blue flag (*Iris virginica*)
- L - Sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*)
- M - Beardtongue penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*)
- N - Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
- O - Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)
- P - Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
- Q - Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
- R - Ohio goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis*)
- S - Nodding wild onion (*Allium cernuum*)
- T - Marsh blazing star (*Liatris spicata*)
- U - Palm sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*)

Plant photos courtesy of:

- 1 - Laurie Kaufman, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative
- 2 - Leslie Kuhn, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative
- 3 - Beverly Walters, Michigan Flora/University of Michigan Herbarium
- 4 - Anton Reznicek, Michigan Flora/University of Michigan Herbarium



Rain Garden Installation, June 2011

Left: Laurie Kaufman, Pat Witte, Nicholas Sanchez, & Jim Hewitt lay out the garden contours.



Center and below: Laurie, Jim, and Nick work with the Navy League Cadet Corps to plant the rain garden.

