



Rain is essential to bringing water to all living things.



However, stormwater in urban areas tends to run off roofs and streets rather than providing needed moisture to plants. It also carries with it the pollutants and trash that it runs over.



Helping the rain stay on the land on which it falls is essential to maintaining the health of the natural streams and water bodies as well as maintaining healthy landscapes.



Our stormwater systems holds water for plants to drink. Through photosynthesis, the plants break down many pollutants in the soil, air, and water.



Rain gardens allow rainwater to infiltrate through the soil, and the soil also cleans and filters water before it gets to natural streams and rivers



TRY THIS AT HOME

- Disconnect downspouts;
- Install trench drains across driveways and sidewalks;
- Use rock filter swales to direct water to rain gardens;
- Install rain gardens where water can sink into the ground;
- Use planted swales to direct water and filter out sediments and trash;
- Install rain barrels and/or cisterns to harvest rainwater to water plants, wash cars, or replace other outdoor water uses.



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Visit www.cylburn.org to learn more

THE RAINDROP TRAIL AT CYLBURN ARBORETUM

Travel through the stormwater system at Cylburn and find out

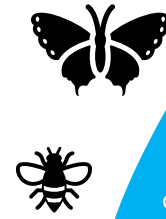


*Where Do the
Raindrops Go?*





Rain falls on the Cylburn Mansion Roof and the driveway. It is collected by **drain pipes** and several **trench drains**. These send the water into the two **rain gardens**.



Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators benefit from the native plants used in our rain gardens and other plantings



In addition to the rain that falls on the rain garden, the water from the Mansion Roof waters the plants in the **rain gardens**. The water also sinks into the soil.



At the end, water will flow into a group of tree stumps called a **stumpery**. This area will allow tree stumps to decay, creating soil and supporting ferns and perennials



Once in the woods, the water flows through several **swales** and into more **rain gardens**. These are filled with native plants.



Sometimes there is too much water for the rain gardens and they overflow through the **rock filters** and the water goes into the woods. This is joined by water from more trench drains and the water that falls on the woods themselves.

