

# MONARCH WAYSTATION & WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATIONS

Monarch populations have been in steep decline since the 1990's. Some scientists estimate that populations of monarchs have declined by as much as 94 percent! By registering your garden with organizations like Monarch Watch or The National Wildlife Federation, you can do your part in helping to protect these key species!



## HELPFUL LINKS

### SOIL TESTING:

[HTTPS://OCES.OKSTATE.EDU/OKLAHOMA /HORTICULTURE-1/SOIL-SAMPLES](https://oces.okstate.edu/oklahoma/horticulture-1/soil-samples)

### RAIN GARDEN SIZE CALCULATOR:

[HTTPS://RAINGARDENALLIANCE.ORG/RIGHT/CALCULATOR](https://raingardenalliance.org/right/calculator)

### CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN HABITAT:

[HTTPS://WWW.NWF.ORG/GARDEN-FOR-WILDLIFE/CERTIFY](https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/certify)  
&  
[HTTPS://MONARCHWATCH.ORG/WAYSTATIONS/](https://monarchwatch.org/waystations/)

### NATIVE PLANTING GUIDE:

[HTTP://WWW.OKNATIVEPLANTS.ORG/NATIVE-GARDENING.HTML](http://www.oknativeplants.org/native-gardening.html)

## CONTACT US

MIDWEST CITY STORMWATER QUALITY | 739-1040 |  
8726 SE 15TH STREET, MIDWEST CITY, OK  
[MIDWESTCITYOK.ORG/280/STORMWATER-QUALITY](http://MIDWESTCITYOK.ORG/280/STORMWATER-QUALITY)



Indian Paintbrush & Bluebonnets

# RAIN GARDENS

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING  
WITH BEAUTY AND PURPOSE



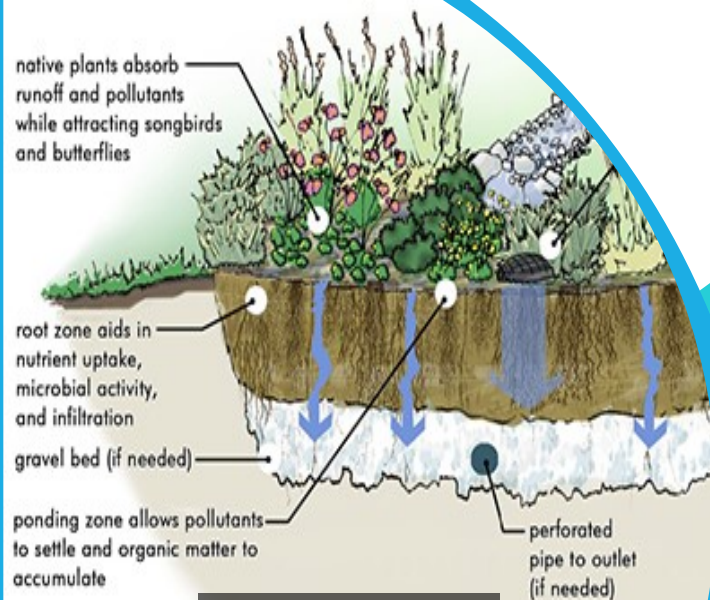
Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

## WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

Rain gardens can be a great addition to any yard, common area, or park! They are different from other gardens in that they are set depressed into the earth to help capture stormwater runoff. This not only helps prevent localized flooding, but it also filters out many pollutants and improves our water quality!

## BENEFITS OF RAIN GARDENS

- Reduces localized flooding
- Recharges groundwater aquifers
- Provides habitat for wildlife
- Filters pollutants from rainwater
- Extremely low maintenance
- Aesthetically pleasing



Rain Garden Design

## HOW TO BUILD A RAIN GARDEN

### STEP 1

#### Placement

Select a location that is at least 10 feet away from your house, where rainwater from impervious surfaces, such as roofs, driveways, or patios, can be easily captured.

### STEP 2

#### Testing Drainage

Conduct a percolation test to determine how well your existing soil drains. If drainage occurs too slowly, you may need to amend your soil with things like peat moss or sand, or pick plants that do well in hydric soils.

### STEP 3

#### Testing Your Soil (Optional)

Submit a sample of your soil to the Oklahoma County Extension Office to determine what soil amendments are needed. This service is only \$10 and can greatly improve the productivity of your new garden!

### STEP 4

#### Deciding size

The easiest way to calculate garden size is to add up the area of impervious surfaces draining to your garden, and divide by 6. Your answer will tell you how many feet<sup>2</sup> of garden you need to hold 1" of rainfall. **Example:** impervious area<sup>2</sup> ÷ 6 = garden size<sup>2</sup>. Another method is to use the calculator webpage provided on the back of this pamphlet.

### STEP 5

#### Installation

Don't forget to call Okie811 before you begin digging! Using a string, define the desired shape of your new garden. Dig a shallow (6"- 8") deep hole with gradual slopes.

Blanket Flower (Gaillardia Sp.)

### STEP 6

#### What to plant

Select a good variety of native plants for your garden. Make sure to space plants based on their mature height and girth. After planting, cover all bare soil with 3" of shredded mulch to deter weed growth and to conserve soil moisture.

## WHY USE NATIVE PLANTS?

Native plants found naturally in Oklahoma make the best additions to rain gardens. Oklahoma has so many beautiful wildflowers to choose from that survive our harsh climate and extreme weather swings. These plants evolved alongside our native soils, climate, and wildlife, and will almost always perform better in a garden setting than non-native varieties. Below are just a few great options for your rain garden!

