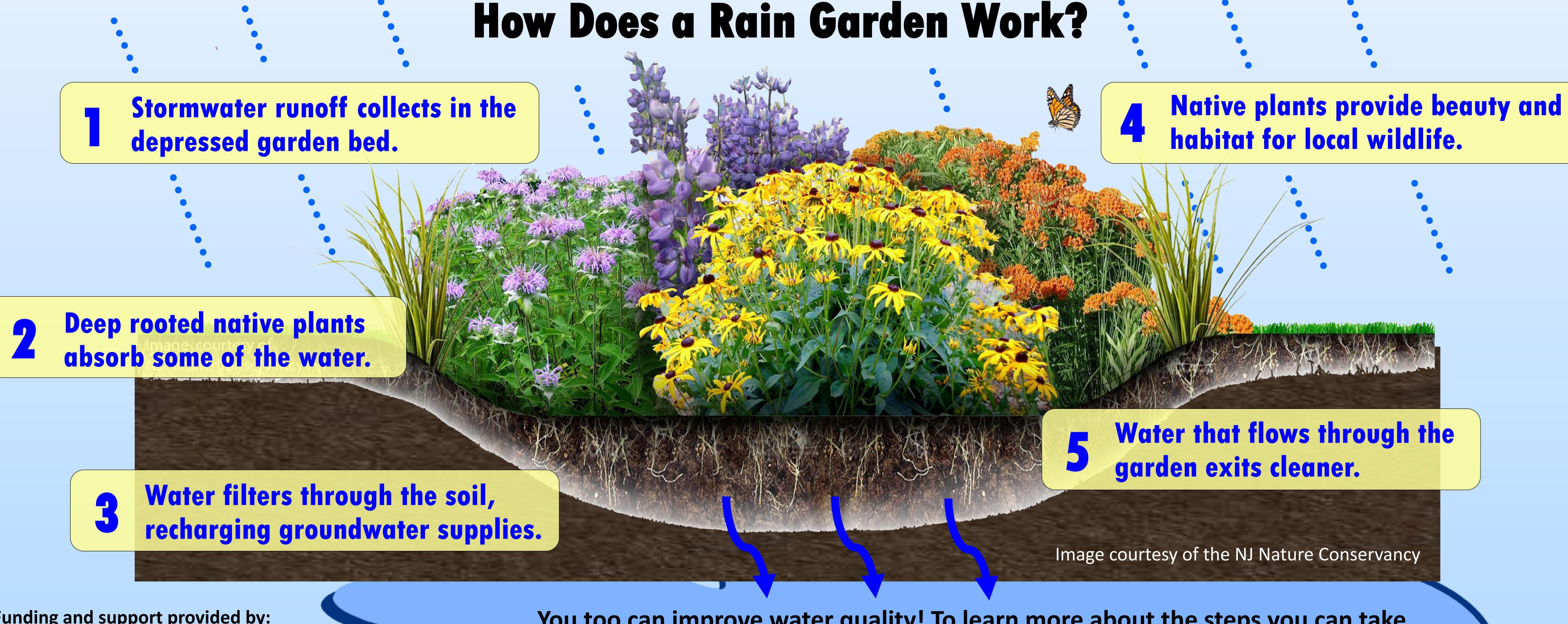# This **RAIN GARDEN** is a Green Solution to Stormwater Pollution

STORMWATER comes from rain water or snow melt that is unable to soak into the ground due to impervious surfaces such as roads, roofs, sidewalks and parking lots. Stormwater picks up many different pollutants as it flows across the ground like oil, fertilizer, pesticides, and pet waste. The stormwater then flows into the storm sewer system, where it is emptied into streams untreated. When this happens, much more water enters the streams than their channels can handle. This leads to flooding, pollution, and loss of habitat for aquatic organisms.

A **RAIN GARDEN** is a landscaped depression that catches the runoff before it reaches the storm sewer system. This prevents pollution and reduces the amount of water entering our creeks during rain events. Rain gardens have many benefits including:

- Increasing groundwater supplies
- Providing habitat
- Beautifying the landscape
- Naturally removing pollutants

How Does a Rain Garden Work?

1 Stormwater runoff collects in the depressed garden bed.

2 Deep rooted native plants absorb some of the water.

3 Water filters through the soil, recharging groundwater supplies.

4 Native plants provide beauty and habitat for local wildlife.

5 Water that flows through the garden exits cleaner.

Image courtesy of the NJ Nature Conservancy

You too can improve water quality! To learn more about the steps you can take to reduce stormwater pollution on your property and to learn more about creating rain gardens visit: WWW.EDCSC.ORG and WWW.PRC.ORG