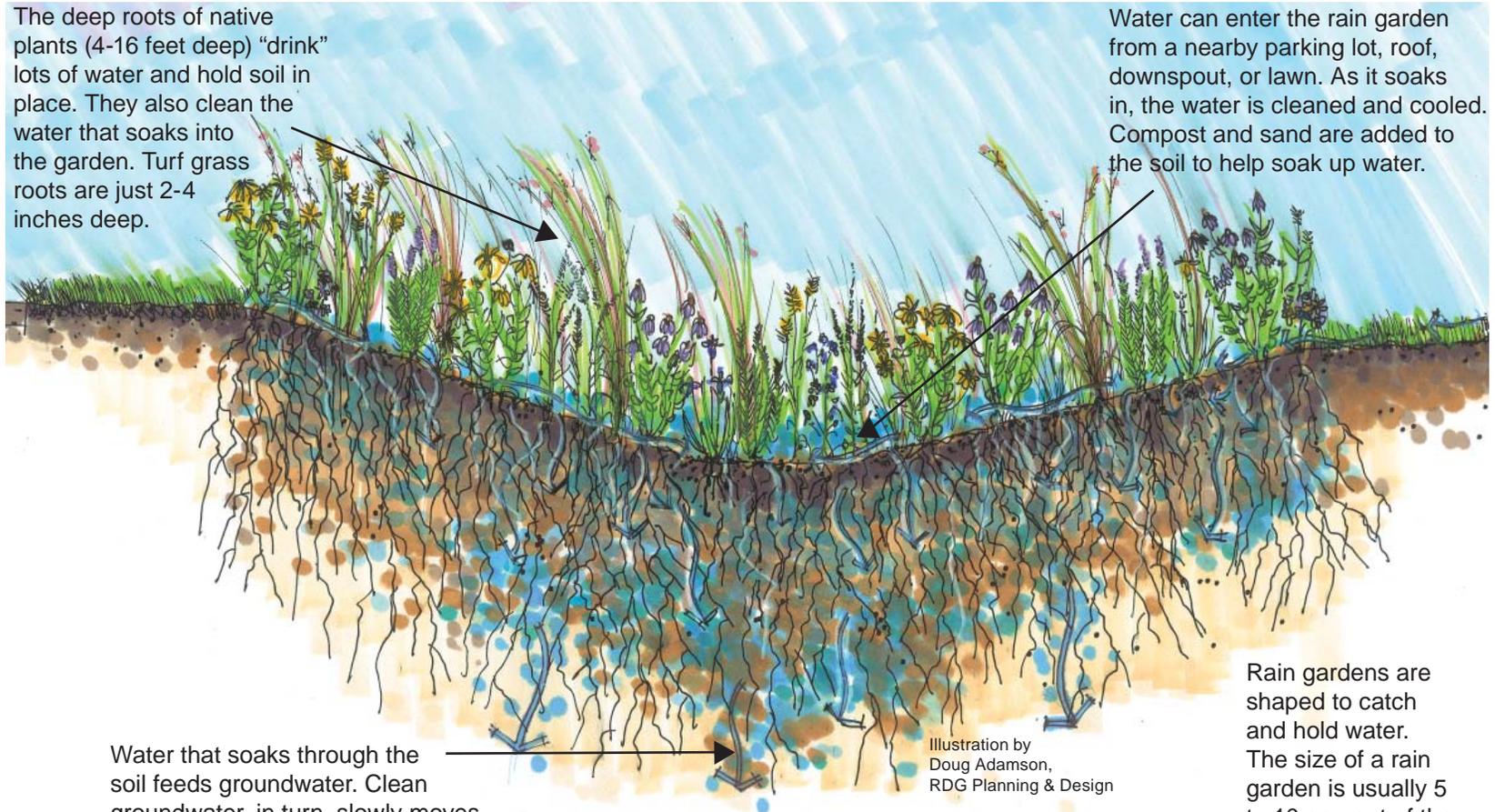


Rain Gardens

soak up water, slow it down, and clean it

What they do...

Rain water usually rushes straight into storm sewers that send surges of water and pollution directly into nearby streams. Fast water erodes soil banks and loads up our water with dirt. Rain gardens soak up the water, clean it, and slow it down. This protects our streams, lakes, and tributaries.



The deep roots of native plants (4-16 feet deep) “drink” lots of water and hold soil in place. They also clean the water that soaks into the garden. Turf grass roots are just 2-4 inches deep.

Water can enter the rain garden from a nearby parking lot, roof, downspout, or lawn. As it soaks in, the water is cleaned and cooled. Compost and sand are added to the soil to help soak up water.

Water that soaks through the soil feeds groundwater. Clean groundwater, in turn, slowly moves into our rivers and streams.

Illustration by
Doug Adamson,
RDG Planning & Design

Rain gardens are shaped to catch and hold water. The size of a rain garden is usually 5 to 10 percent of the area draining into it.

Did you know?

The #1 water pollutant in Iowa is dirt!

For more information on how you can install your own rain garden, go to

www.leadingyououtdoors.org

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