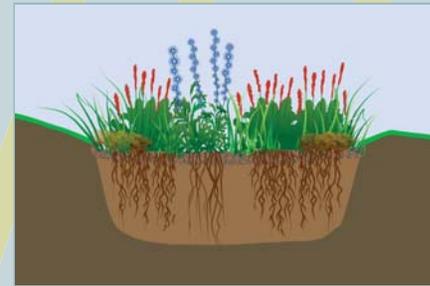


Rain Gardens

The two planted depressions you see at this rest area are rain gardens. They were installed in 2006 as part of MDOT's overall storm water management program. These rain gardens help filter pollutants from storm water runoff from the parking lots, which can pollute downstream creeks and rivers. By collecting storm water runoff and allowing it to soak into the ground in the rain gardens, MDOT is reducing pollution to Michigan's waterways and improving water quality.



These attractive and simple systems also provide food and habitat for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Rain gardens contain native plants and flowers that need little maintenance. As a result, they are a natural solution to storm water pollution.



Native plants assist rain gardens by soaking up water in their roots, which grow as deep as 15 feet. Tunnels formed by decaying roots help water and oxygen filter through the ground.



Anyone can easily help reduce storm water pollution. Here are three simple ways:

1. **Keep your car well-maintained and leak-free**
2. **Properly dispose of trash and pet waste**
3. **Never dump anything down a storm drain**

Only rain belongs in the drain!

