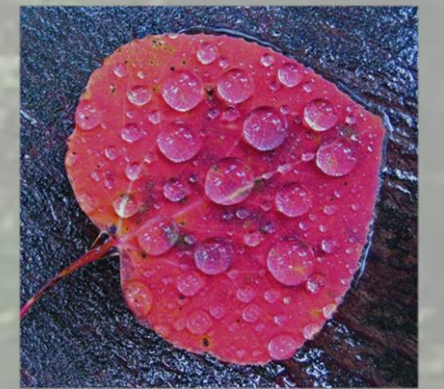




Ottawa
National
Forest

Rain Garden



This rain garden is designed to hold stormwater runoff from roofs and pavement of the administrative buildings across the road. Water is collected and piped into the garden on the east side. The garden slows the flow and allows water to infiltrate into the soil. Wetland plants and soil filter the runoff, removing pollutants such as oil and fluids leaked from cars in the parking lots.

Perennial native plants are used in the rain garden, since they are adapted to our climate, and will need little fertilizer or weeding once established. Native plants also provide valuable food and shelter for pollinators such as butterflies and beetles, as well as for songbirds and other animals.



Seep monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), a Michigan special concern wildflower, is planted in this garden. Other perennials include **harlequin blueflag** (*Iris versicolor*, below left) and **Canadian anemone** (*Anemone canadensis*, below right). See if you can find them in the garden.



Swamp milkweed

(*Asclepias incarnata*) is a showy species used in rain gardens, including this one. It is also one of the few plants that caterpillars of the at-risk monarch butterfly can use for food.



Want to create your own rain garden?

Consider the following in your planning:

- Water sources, depth to water table
- Soil type (sand/silt/clay) and condition
- Slope of your site
- Location of structures and septic system
- Availability of sunlight to your site

More information is available at the Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center.

