Welcome to PWEC Buffer Garden!

Did you know?

Rain & Storm Water that runs off of our rooftops, parking lots, or through lawns collects junk (like oil, gasoline, household chemicals) that gets in our Bay and poisons our critters!

**FACT:** 20%-25% of nutrient, toxin, and sediment pollution in our Bay comes from ways we use land.

Fertilizer and Pesticides will mix with runoff water and spill nutrients into the Bay, fostering more algae in the water. When algae dies it takes oxygen away from the water where Bay Critters live and breathe (even if it is by way of fish gills). This results in “dead zones”.

Gardens can help reduce runoff, and filter out the impurities from water before it reaches the bay. Plus gardens are beautiful!

Native Plants are the best choice, because they are adapted to our Chesapeake Bay region (without extra fertilizer) and provide the favorite food for our critters in both land and sea!
Can you identify these Natives Plants in the PWEC Garden? What makes a plant “native”?

**Eupatorium dubium**  
(Joe-Pye Weed)

**Eupatorium coelestinum**  
(Mist Flower)

**Panicum virgatum**  
(Switch Grass)

**Baccharis halimifolia**  
(Groundsel Bush)

**Taxodium distichum**  
(Bald Cypress)

**Calamagrostis canadensis**  
(Bluejoint Grass)

You can also make a Native Rain Garden at home to help the Bay!

**Rain Gardens** are located between land and water to help filter pollutants and improve water quality. Buffers absorb excess runoff and reduce erosion, while providing beautiful landscapes and food for bees, butterflies and birds. **Rain Gardens** work the same way, and can be created anywhere that rain drains!

Rain Gardens, Roof Gardens and YOUR Garden can also help clean the Bay!

**Make A Rain Garden:**
Find an area in your yard that is near your drains, streets or streams.

Dig down about 8-12 inches to create a “bowl” to capture & slow down runoff water before it reaches the drains.

Mix fresh soil with the soil you dug out, to create a “nutritious” area for plantings.

Select Plants from the list here, or other natives (considering the amount of sun you have) Plant them in any design that you like!

Place mulch, pebbles or stepping stones for pathways to allow water to soak in to soil, and to guide visitors.

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