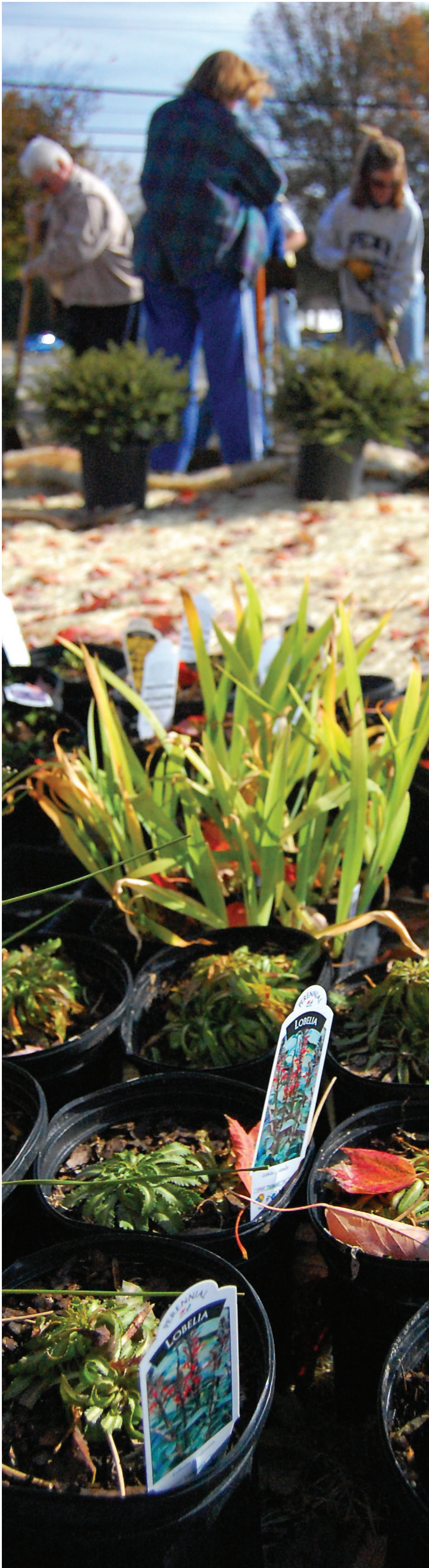


PLANTING YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN



WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

A rain garden is a collection of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression and is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff. As polluted runoff collects in a rain garden, the rain garden acts as a filter and removes pollutants from the water and allows for the filtered water to be absorbed by the ground and the plants in the garden. Otherwise, this excess water feeds into local waterways such as ponds and streams, causing flooding, erosion or sediment buildup.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Improves water quality by filtering out pollutants
- Preserves native vegetation
- Provides localized stormwater and flood control

AESTHETIC

- Visually attractive
- Easy to maintain after establishment
- Attracts beneficial birds, butterflies and insects

STEWARDSHIP

- Gets educators and students involved in creating something that will serve the community
- Educates students on their role in the watershed and how they can make a difference in caring for nature

HOW DO I PLANT A RAIN GARDEN?

- Find a suitable site for your rain garden
- Determine the size. A rain garden should have an area about 20% the size of the roof, patio, or pavement area draining into it
- Plant native vegetation such as perennials, shrubs or wildflowers