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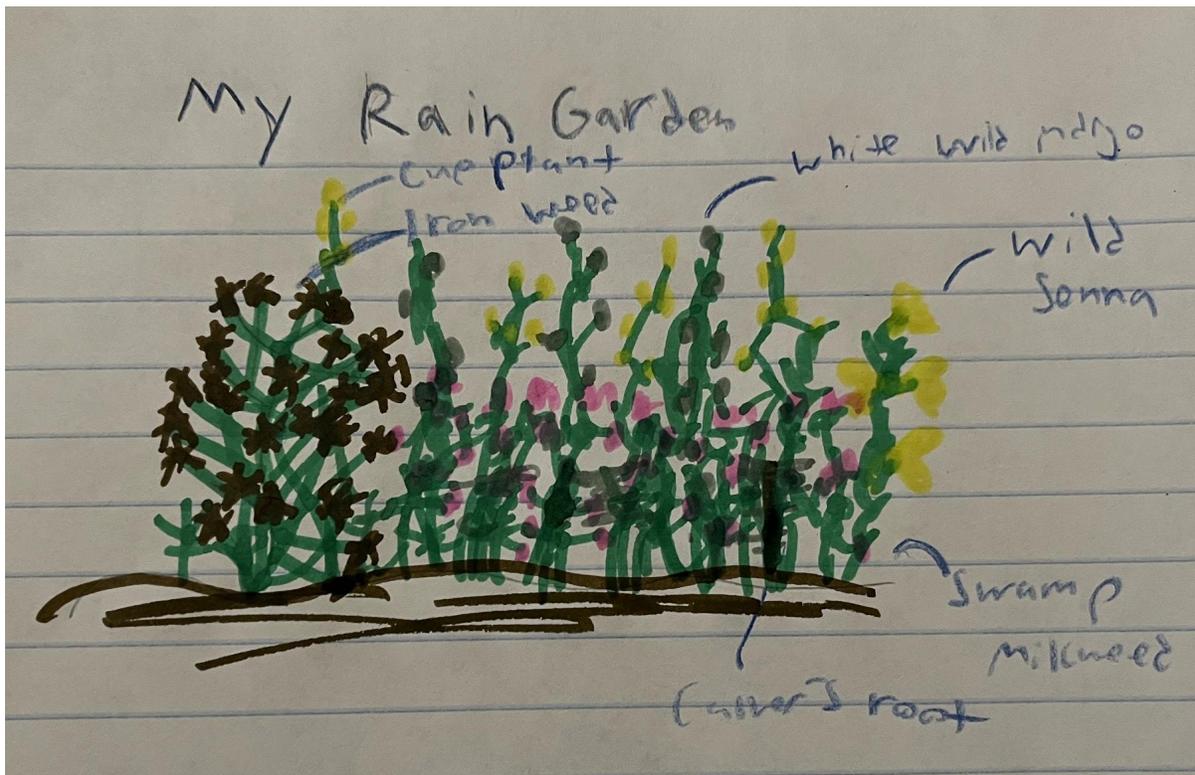
School: Oswego East

11 October 2022

My Garden Plan

My backyard soil has a very low infiltration rate. This is both due to compaction and that non-native grasses are the only plant grown on this soil. These plants have very short roots, preventing water from being absorbed into the soil. A lack of water absorption causes the top layer of soil to be eroded, further lowering soil health, and prevents the plants and animals residing in the soil from getting the water they need to thrive. To solve this issue I will be planting a rain garden in my backyard composed of native plant species. The species I plant will be well-known for having long root structures to increase soil water absorption and therefore soil health and are known to thrive in soils exposed to medium moisture levels, like the soil in my backyard. I will plant Common Ironweed, Culver's Root, Cup-Plants, Swamp Milkweed, White Wild Indigo, and Wild Senna. Common Ironweed and Culver's Root are native plant species with excellent root structures to aid in soil water absorption. The leaves of Cup-Plants join to the stem in a cup-like shape. Birds often drink from the water collected in the cups of this plant. Swamp Milkweed is a food source to the endangered Monarch butterfly, native to my area. White Wild Indigo is not only a beautiful flower but will also attract bees. Wild Senna will greatly benefit local ecosystems. It releases nectar attracting ants, flies, and ladybird beetles. Its flowers also attract bees. Also, these plants are very beneficial to local pollinators and the Swamp Milkweed will benefit the endangered Monarch butterflies native to my area. I considered regenerative agricultural practices and am planting native plants that are all

perennials. Therefore, they will naturally grow back year after year with no soil disruption from replanting. Also, all of the plants are native to my area, so they will thrive. All of the plants I will be using have exceptional root structures to aid in soil water absorption, increasing the health of the soil over time. Another agriculture friendly practice I will use is using my family's food scraps as compost for the rain garden. This will act as an organic fertilizer for the plants, helping them grow.



Social Media Post

Caption: Try growing a rain garden in your backyard! Rain gardens contain long-rooted native plants that help water absorb into the soil. This can help replenish our aquifers and improve soil health! These native plant species even aid our local ecosystems by providing food to local pollination and endangered species like Monarch Butterflies. Rain garden plants are usually perennials and as they are native and already adapted to Illinois climate conditions, minimal work is required to maintain a rain garden. Try planting one in your own backyard to make a difference today! The sketch shown shows my plan for my own rain garden. @TurningGreenOrg @KissTheGround @OrganicCenter #PGC2022.

Post on next page

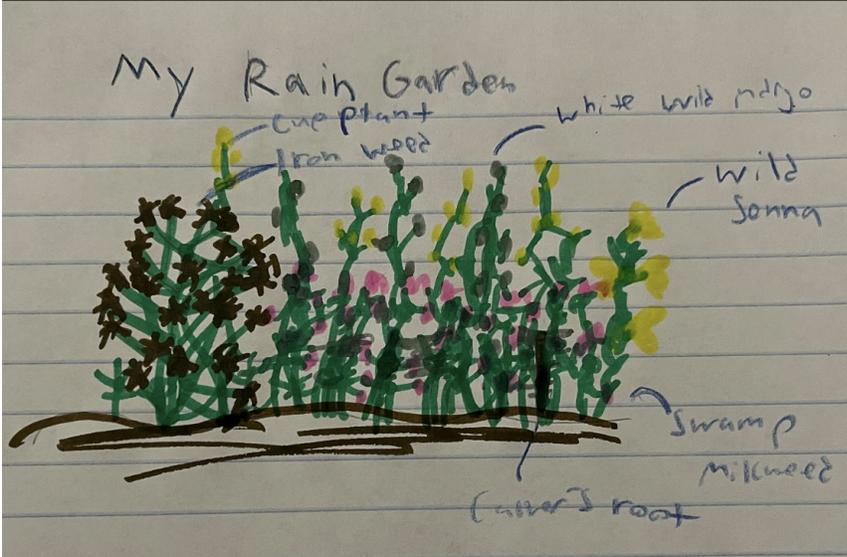
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