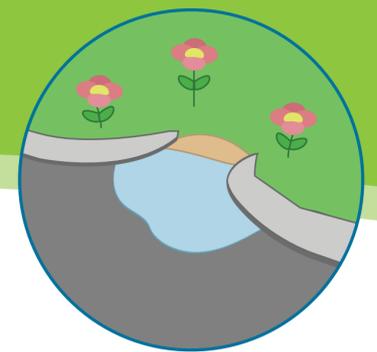
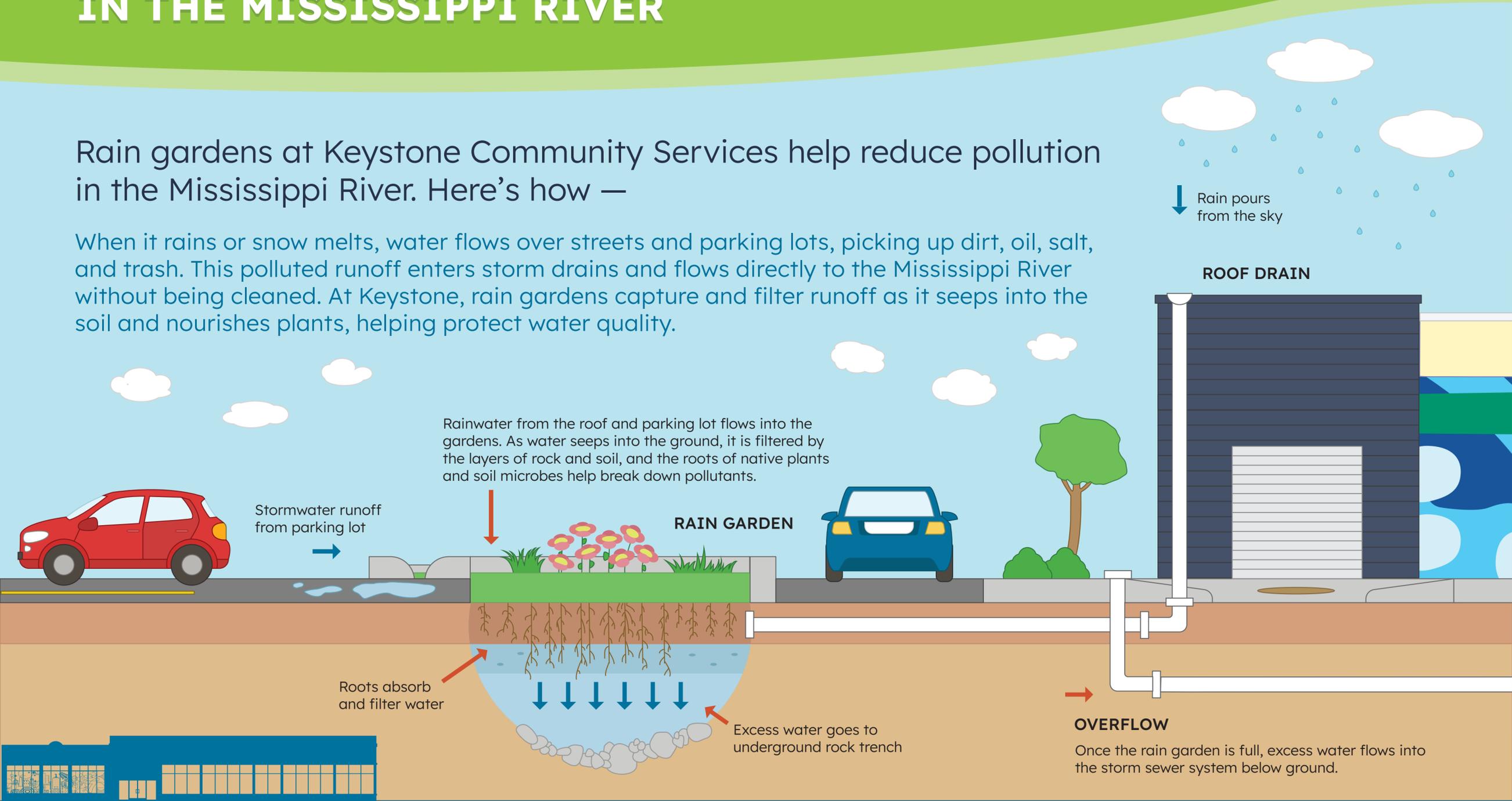


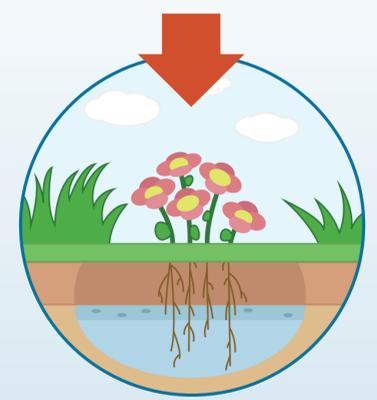
# REDUCING POLLUTION IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Rain gardens at Keystone Community Services help reduce pollution in the Mississippi River. Here's how —

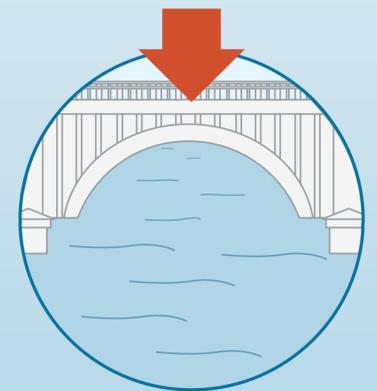
When it rains or snow melts, water flows over streets and parking lots, picking up dirt, oil, salt, and trash. This polluted runoff enters storm drains and flows directly to the Mississippi River without being cleaned. At Keystone, rain gardens capture and filter runoff as it seeps into the soil and nourishes plants, helping protect water quality.



**Rainwater** enters the rain gardens



**Soil and plants** filter pollution out



**Cleaner water** flows to the Mississippi River

## Why is this important?

Rainwater picks up dirt, oil, salt and trash when it flows across streets, roofs and parking lots. Usually, polluted rainwater enters storm drain pipes and flows straight to the Mississippi River without being cleaned or filtered. The parking lot at our food center is designed to direct water into a rain garden's mulch and soil layers. Plant roots guide water to seep into the ground. The roots absorb pollution and take up some of the water to nourish the plants. The garden was created through a partnership between Keystone Community Services and the Capitol Region Watershed District. Learn more at [capitolregionwd.org](http://capitolregionwd.org).

