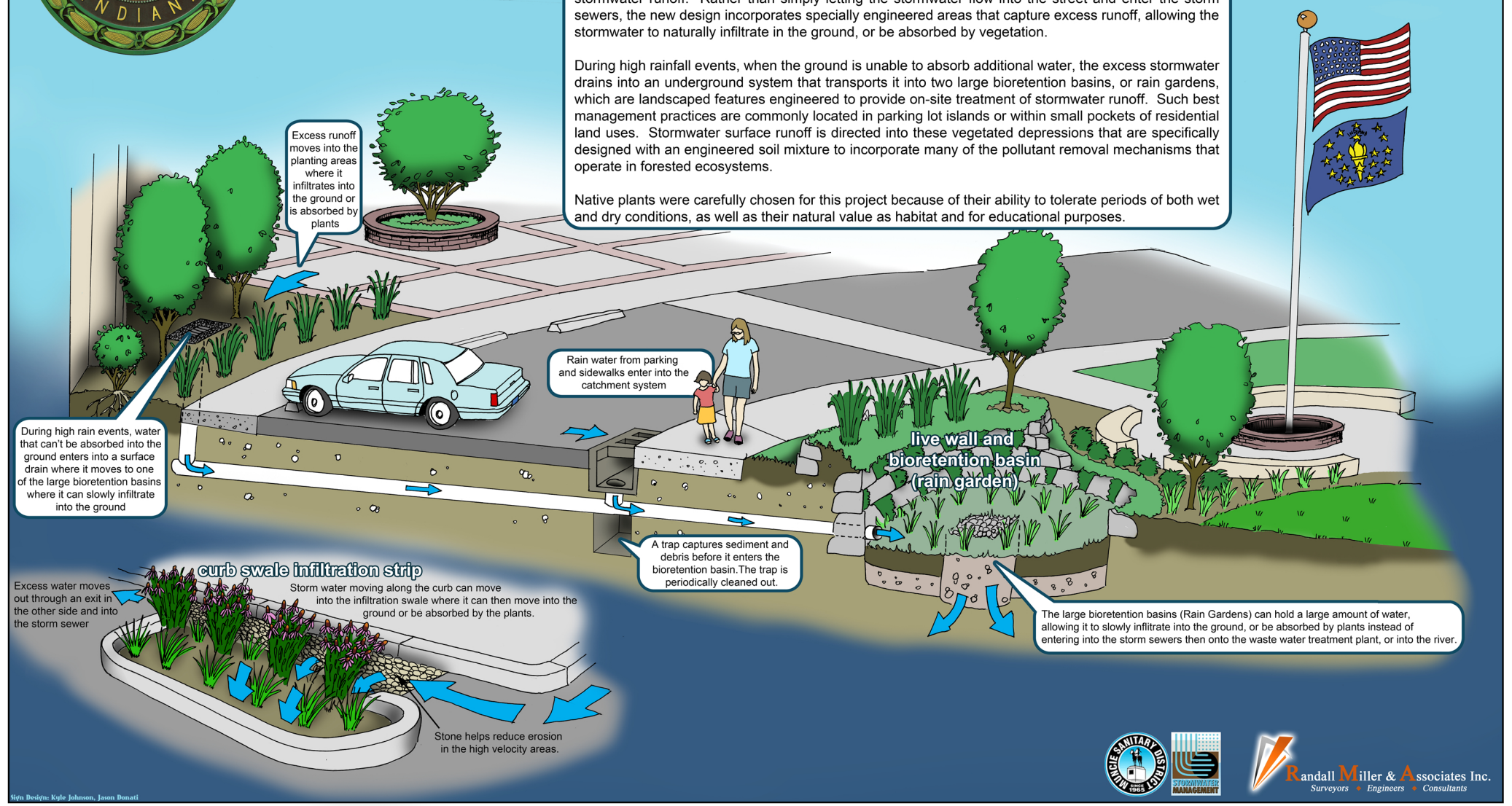
Delaware County Building Green Infrastructure

Stormwater Best Management Practices Demonstration Area

The Delaware County Building Plaza renovation includes some new and unique methods of managing stormwater runoff. Rather than simply letting the stormwater flow into the street and enter the storm sewers, the new design incorporates specially engineered areas that capture excess runoff, allowing the stormwater to naturally infiltrate in the ground, or be absorbed by vegetation.

During high rainfall events, when the ground is unable to absorb additional water, the excess stormwater drains into an underground system that transports it into two large bioretention basins, or rain gardens, which are landscaped features engineered to provide on-site treatment of stormwater runoff. Such best management practices are commonly located in parking lot islands or within small pockets of residential land uses. Stormwater surface runoff is directed into these vegetated depressions that are specifically designed with an engineered soil mixture to incorporate many of the pollutant removal mechanisms that operate in forested ecosystems.

Native plants were carefully chosen for this project because of their ability to tolerate periods of both wet and dry conditions, as well as their natural value as habitat and for educational purposes.



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