

Rain Garden

A rain garden is a shallow depression, planted with native species and designed to slow, capture and infiltrate rain. A rain garden captures storm water off a property by capturing the runoff across a lawn, paved area or roof. This runoff may overload storm sewers, drainage ditches and streams as it enters the drainage network and may carry with it nutrients, sediment, oil, gas, heavy metals etc. Rain gardens help reduce the amount of this potentially harmful material from entering the water system and degrading water quality. Rain gardens also reduce the need for supplemental water on your lawn. They regenerate the groundwater by allowing water to soak into the soil, rather than run-off.

Situate a rain garden to intercept runoff from roofs, yards, driveways, or streets. It should not be built within ten feet of foundation walls or on poorly drained sites. A rain garden should not be built over buried utilities or block drivers' vision. Do not construct a rain garden where prohibited by local ordinances or where subject to disturbance.

How a rain garden works

- Down spouts direct water from your roof to your garden.
- Berms keep the water within the garden and prevent overflowing.
- Deep rooted plants absorb the water and help it penetrate into the soil

The [Rain Garden Worksheet](#) goes through the following steps:

- Drainage Area
- Location Suitability
- Soil Analysis
- Garden Depth and Size
- Inlet location
- Overflow location
- Planting Methods and Materials
- Construction Methods and Materials
- Rain Garden Plant List

