



Rain Gardens

What exactly is a rain garden?

An attractive, sunken landscape bed of native perennials that capture storm water runoff so it can be absorbed into the ground and cleansed of pollution.

What do rain gardens do?

- Help to protect & restore natural hydrology
- Allow rain to soak into the ground
- Intercept pollutants and can provide treatment
- Can provide wildlife habitat (birds & butterflies)

Where do I put a rain garden?



Rain gardens can be placed upstream from wet areas in the yard, below roof downspouts, in drainage patterns between properties, down slope from schools or municipal buildings or in parking lots.



This rain garden is helping to address storm water concerns in a parking lot. It will help collect potential pollutants such as motor oil before the runoff water moves untreated through the storm drain system and into our local creeks, streams, rivers and lakes.

Rain Garden Q & A

Is a rain garden a type of pond?

Rain gardens are not ponds. If a rain garden is built correctly and functioning properly, it should hold water for a maximum of 48 hours.

Will a rain garden attract mosquitoes?

No. Mosquitoes need 7-12 days of standing water to complete their life cycle. A properly built rain garden will not hold water long enough for the mosquitoes to complete their life cycle (the eggs or larvae will dry out). Rain gardens can attract dragonflies which are predators of mosquitoes.

What about construction and maintenance?

Construction costs for a homeowner who does the work is about \$3-\$5 per square foot. This cost does increase with a consultant to approximately \$10-\$15 per square foot. Maintenance should be easy with native plants! That's the beauty of using natives!



For more information or to schedule a rain garden presentation, please contact Amy Reeher, Trumbull SWCD Watershed Coordinator at (330) 637-2056, ext. 111 or at reehera@embarqmail.com

