

Rain Gardens

30%

The amount of additional water infiltrated into the ground by a rain garden vs. a conventional lawn.

WDNR

Help Protect Your Watershed

Rain gardens help capture and slow runoff from your property, reducing the amount of water that gets into the storm and sanitary sewers. Rain gardens use native landscaping to soak up rainwater coming from your downspouts or drainage system. The middle part of the garden holds several inches of water, allowing it to slowly infiltrate into the ground instead of being delivered to the storm drain all at once. Rain gardens work best in areas with well-drained soils or by creating well-drained soils.

Rain gardens are advantageous because they can:

- Help reduce the volume of sewer overflows
- Increase awareness and involvement in stormwater management
- Reduce the amount of polluted runoff that gets into rivers and lakes every time it rains
- Add beauty and attract birds and butterflies to your yard and neighborhood

Steps to creating your rain garden:

Step 1: Determine how much of the rooftop area drains to the downspout you will be directing to your rain garden. Size the rain garden to be 10-30% of the roof area.

Step 2: Lay out the boundary of the rain garden with rope or string.

Step 3: Dig the rain garden and add components (rock, sand, compost, mulch). The top surface will need to be several inches below the surface of your yard.

Step 4: Add plants to the rain garden. Choose native plants that will be water tolerant.

For more information check out our website at:

www.blairconservationdistrict.org or call 814-696-0877 ext 5.



Resource Conservation Since 1966

Provided by the Blair County Conservation District with credit to Milwaukee Metro Sewerage District & Wisconsin DCNR