

# Rain Gardens

**30%**

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

WDNR

**\$5 - \$10**  
**per square foot**

The cost to construct a rain garden, including labor for construction and design, plants, and soil mixture. Design and construction costs can vary widely depending on the complexity of the project.

## 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 downspout 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 neighborhoods

If you would like more information, please check out our web site at: [www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com) or call 414-272-5100

*4 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. The surface will need to be several inches below the surface of your yard. Excavate 2 inches or more and add well drained soils.

Step 4: Add plants to the rain garden. Choose native plants that will not need much watering.



### Case Study

MMSD is currently funding a demonstration project where rain gardens are being built at auto salvage centers. These gardens will help improve water quantity, water quality, and improve the appearance of the facilities.



*In cooperation with the  
2020 Facilities Plan*

