



Phase II Storm Water Program

Spring 2025

Rain Gardens and their Benefits

What is a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens are a beautiful and eco-friendly way to manage stormwater and enhance the quality of your local surface and ground water. These shallow, planted areas are designed to capture and soak up pollutants in runoff from parking lots, driveways, roads, and other impermeable surfaces, preventing them from reaching and polluting local streams. By slowing water flow, rain gardens also reduce flood risks and give runoff more time to infiltrate into the ground thereby recharging groundwater aquifers.

Creating a rain garden

Creating a rain garden is simple: choose a low spot in your yard, plant native species like ferns or wildflowers that thrive in wet conditions, and add mulch to hold moisture. These plants not only absorb water but also attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, boosting local biodiversity. Maintenance is minimal—occasional weeding and watering during dry spells help keep it thriving.

Where can I find more information?

Start small to make a big difference. Check with local stormwater programs or extension services for design tips and resources to get your rain garden started.

Helpful links:

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/fish-water/how-to-install-a-rain-garden/>

<https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-gardens>

