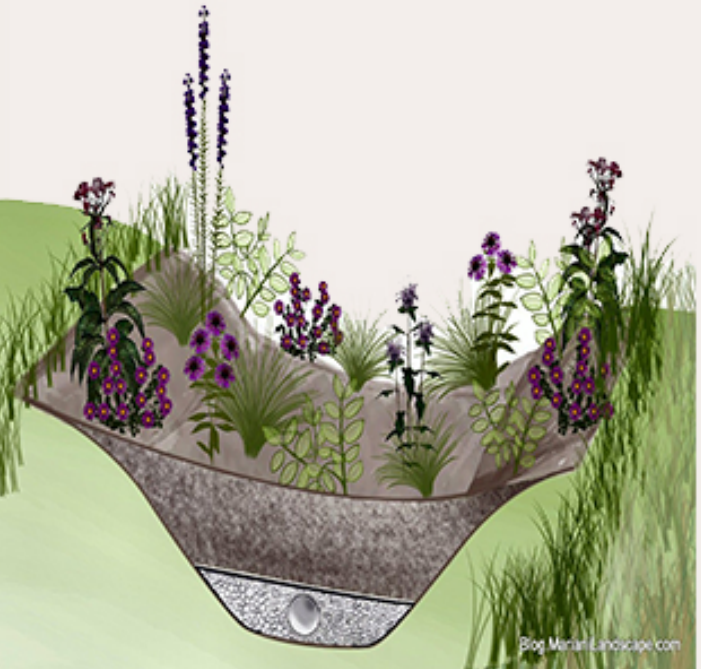
What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow depression made into a low-maintenance garden which uses native plants to absorb rain water runoff from impervious surfaces (driveways, roofs, and sidewalks etc.) as its main water and nutrient source.

Things to consider...

- Location
- Plant choices
- Depth
- Sizing
- Soil Amendments



Rain gardens can vary in size and shape and should be planned considering drainage patterns, size and quantity of surrounding impervious surfaces, and soil conditions. When well planned and maintained rain gardens can be a simple, beautiful, and effective residential landscaping element.

Cass County Soil Conservation District

For questions or technical assistance for creating your own rain garden contact Ashley Fisk:
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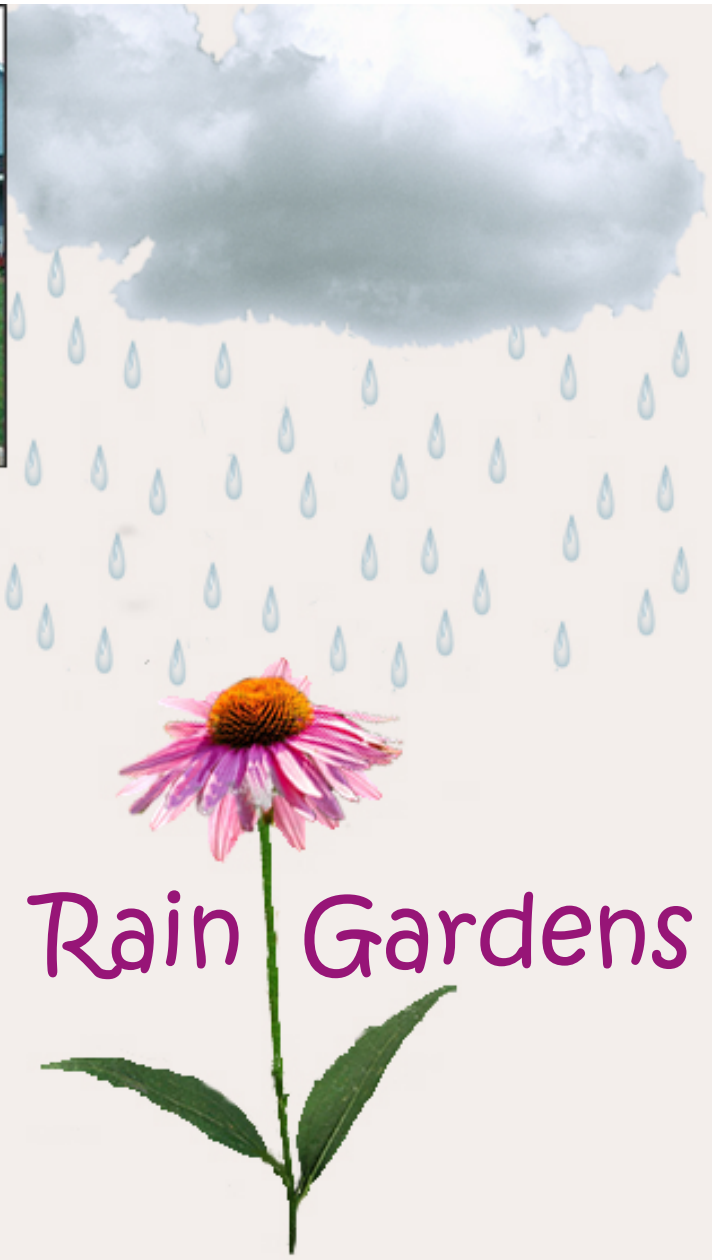


Rain Gardens

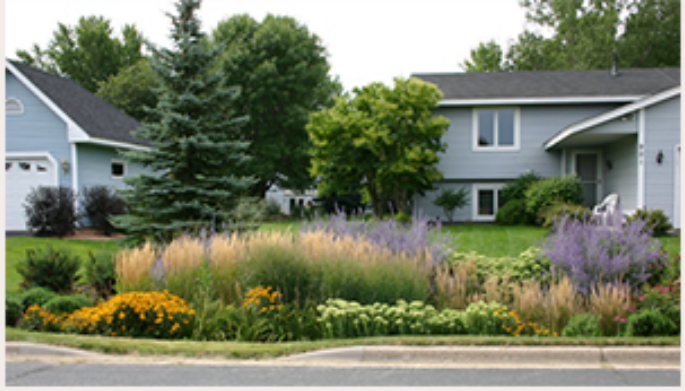
Capturing the Rain of the Plains

Cass County Soil Conservation District
Stewardship for Today and Tomorrow

What are the Benefits?

Beyond being low-maintenance, rain gardens have many important benefits that impact our community including:

- Absorb and filter stormwater runoff, reducing pollutants in our waterways
- Reduce flooding potential by decreasing water volume entering storm drains
- Reduce dependency on city or well water for landscaping
- Reduce the potential for soil erosion
- The absorption of stormwater runoff recharges precious groundwater sources



Rain garden misconceptions.....

"Native plants are ugly looking"

There are a few species that may be less attractive, however a majority of the native plants are very beautiful and some are often sold at local landscaping companies and home stores and can make a beautiful landscape feature.

"It will be a breeding ground for mosquitoes"

While their purpose is to capture and hold water it is for only a brief period of time; 24-48 hrs while it takes 7 days for mosquitoes to hatch.

"Only plants that require wet growing conditions will thrive in a rain garden"

These are not ponds. It is dry most of the time. A variety of plants that tolerate a wide range of conditions work best. Strategical placement of plants is key.

Why should you use native plants?

- Native plants have very deep roots that help infiltrate water, reduce erosion, and filter pollutants
- Native plants have adapted to handle both regular moisture levels in our soil as well as periods of drought and saturation
- Many native plants attract and provide a food source for pollinators

Blanket Flower

Lewis Flax

Black-eyed Susan

Purple Coneflower

American Vetch