

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 7: Feb 17, 2021

RAIN GARDENS

A rain garden is a planned garden area of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios or lawns.

WHY BUILD ONE?

Provides habitat for wildlife.

Requires less maintenance, watering, fertilizers and pesticides than traditional gardens because of use of native and other locally adapted plants.

Filters pollutants and reduces pollution in our waterways via native plant roots and healthy soil.

Recharges groundwater by allowing water to filter into the ground rather than run along the surface into drains.

Transforms your property in an inexpensive and easy way.

If placed properly can help ease flooding on your property.

MAKE A PLAN

Rain gardens are a fairly easy project that can cost around \$200-\$1,000 for a large rain garden and can take about 2-3 day to complete. But, remember you can always make small rain gardens as well!

Take a good look at your yard: It's best to use a low spot, ideally at least 10 feet from your house to ensure water stays clear of your homes foundation.

Depending on the area and goals you have, determine the size of rain garden you want or need and the shape you want it to be.

Look for plants that will survive in your climate. You will also need plants that can survive in standing water and in droughts.

You'll also need to look at how the water will get to your rain garden. If you choose a naturally low area, the work is done. If you want your downspouts to lead to it, you'll need a channel or drainage pipe to lead to the rain garden.

Look at the type of soil you have, clay will need to be removed and replaced in the rain garden. Using compost will be great for your plants. You may need sand, soil and mulch.

Always call 811 before you dig!

pictures of rain gardens

