

Rain Gardens

For many people, a beautiful garden is a source of great pleasure. Imagine a beautiful garden that can also help to protect our environment!

Rain gardens are aptly named since they soak up rain water, mainly from your roof via strategically directed drain spouts, but also from your driveway or lawn. The gardens can fill with up to 6 inches of water after a storm and allow the water to slowly filter into the ground rather than running off to storm drains which will eventually empty into a stream or river. A rain garden can allow about 30 percent more water to soak into the ground than a patch of conventional lawn!

When water runs off of our yards and driveways, it can carry pollutants along with it. The suburban household is a leading source of water pollution, with oils and metals from cars and trucks, and fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and pet waste being carried along the curbsides and down into the storm sewers.

Anyone with a lawn can build a rain garden; they can be large or small, simple or elaborate. They can include flowers, grasses, or plants specifically chosen to attract birds or butterflies. It's something you can do at home to not only beautify your yard and neighborhood, but contribute to cleaner, healthier water in your community as well.