

Benefits:

- TRAP & TREAT POLLUTANTS
- RECHARGE GROUNDWATER
- RESTORE NATURAL HABITATS
- IMPROVE SOIL
- ATTRACT BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER WILDLIFE
- LOW MAINTENANCE, NO MOW
- BEAUTY!



For More Information:

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State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources How-to Manual:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/rgmanual.pdf>

Rain Gardens

The Village of



NORTH
FOND DU LAC



What is a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens are attractive landscaped areas planted with perennial native plants which don't mind getting "wet feet". Built in a bowl shape, rain gardens are designed to increase infiltration allowing rain and snowmelt to seep naturally into the ground. Benefits of rain gardens are multiple: they recharge groundwater supply, prevent water quality problems, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and are great looking landscapes features!

Recent studies have shown that up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is carried there by run-off from practices we carry out in our own yards and gardens! Some of the common "non-point source pollutants" from our yards that end up in our local waterways include soil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, grass clippings and other yard debris.

Planting rain gardens is a great way to help our communities "bloom", as we work to protect the health of our watersheds.

How to be a good citizen in our watershed community:

Everyone lives in a watershed. You, as well as, everyone in your watershed are part of the watershed community. Animals, birds, and fish are part of it, too. You influence the health of your watershed, good or bad, by how you treat its natural resources--the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. You can help maintain the health of our watershed by installing a rain garden on your own personal property.

Planting a rain garden may seem like a small thing, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off your property, you might be surprised. Every drop counts! Rain gardens capture rain that usually runs off your property and allows it time to soak into the ground. This helps minimize run-off and helps reduce the amount of non-point source pollution that enters our waterways.

Keeping rain where it falls, by directing it to a rain garden, is a natural solution to water pollution. You not only get a lovely garden, but you have also helped protect our rivers, streams and lakes from pollution.



Rain gardens can cut down on the amount of pollution reaching creeks and streams by up to 30%.



Native plants are recommended for rain gardens because they generally don't require fertilizer and are more tolerant of one's local climate, soil, and water conditions. The plants — a selection of wetland edge vegetation, such as wildflowers, sedges, rushes, ferns, shrubs and small trees — take up excess water flowing into the rain garden. Water filters through soil layers before entering the groundwater system. Root systems enhance infiltration, moisture redistribution, and diverse microbial populations involved in biofiltration.

Also, through the process of transpiration rain garden plants return water vapor into the atmosphere. A more wide-ranging definition covers all the possible elements that can be used to capture, channel, divert, and make the most of the natural rain and snow that falls on a property. The whole garden can become a rain garden, and all of the individual elements that we deal with in detail are either components of it, or are small-scale rain gardens in themselves.