

Raingardens for Urban Landscapes

Sherburne Soil And Water Conservation District



Rain gardens are natural landscape features that capture runoff from hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways and parking lots allowing the water to seep slowly into the ground. They are planted into shallow depressions located down-slope from the runoff source.



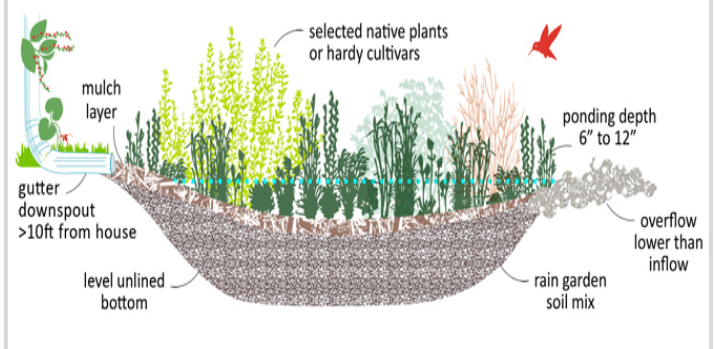
The Benefits of planting a Raingarden on your property

- Raingardens can be made to fit all shapes and sizes and can compliment your existing landscaping
- Once established, native gardens need little weeding, watering, mulching or mowing
- Native plants provide a natural habitat as well as nectar, pollen and seeds for butterflies, bees and birds
- The plants and soil in a Raingarden work together to remove pollutants from runoff.
- Raingardens actively manage stormwater on site, helping to stop our greatest cause of water pollution.
- By capturing water and allowing it to slowly seep into the soil, raingardens help replenish local aquifers.

Tips for a Successful Raingarden

- Select the right location in your yard, typically an area where water flows from the roof, driveway, or street.
- Amend the soil if it is not already sandy, raingarden soil mixes are readily available.
- Place shredded hardwood mulch before planting to reduce weed competition. Avoid using lighter mulches such as cedar chips and pine bark, they will decompose quicker and tend to move around more with rain.
- Use deep rooted, native perennials that will create channels in the soil for water to infiltrate.
- Select a variety of flowers, shrubs, and grasses that will complement each other and provide color all season long.
- Water during dry spells the first two years and weed until plants fill in.

Raingarden Layout and Design



Raingardens will have loose, absorbent soils in a shallow bowl-shape called a "ponding" area. It will contain perennial plants native to your region. When the raingarden is finished, it will act like a natural meadow or a light forest ecosystem.

For more information on installing a Raingarden, please contact the Sherburne SWCD:

Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District
14855 Hwy 10 Elk River, MN 55330
763-241-1170 ext. 4 www.sherburneswcd.org



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