

The rain garden on display at the Eaton Township Community Park is a Eaton Township Storm Water Management Committee project used to heighten public awareness and education for storm water management.

The construction of this garden was made possible with donations from individuals and businesses including Modern Landscaping & Design, Custom Exteriors and Ohio Prairie Nursery.

Area residents can see first-hand the benefits of rain gardens thanks to a \$3,761 Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund mini grant. The funding aided in the development of the rain garden. The mini grant developed the 600-square-foot rain garden.

The rain garden will be used to show how a rain garden helps remove pollutants by filtering storm water runoff and slow the flow of water before it enters local waterways.

Collaborators include the Black River Watershed Project, Eaton Township Trustees and Lorain Soil and Water Conservation District.

# RAIN GARDENS



*RAIN.....*

*From the skies  
To your garden!*



**For more information on rain barrels or rain gardens, contact:**

**Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District  
42110 Russia Road  
Elyria, Ohio 44035-6813**

**Phone: 440-326-5800  
Fax: 440-326-5807**

**[www.lorainswcd.com](http://www.lorainswcd.com)**

## RAIN GARDEN

### **What is a rain garden?**

A rain garden is an attractive, landscaped area planted with native plants. They are built in depressions, not ponds, that can hold water for a maximum of 48 hours.

Rain gardens capture runoff from hard surfaces such as roofs and driveways and allow it to seep slowly into the ground.

Most importantly, rain gardens help to preserve nearby streams and lakes by reducing the amount of runoff and filtering the pollutants

### **Why have a rain garden?**

Rain gardens are a means for natural infiltration of rainwater into the soil. This helps to filter out pollutants including fertilizer, pesticides, oil, heavy metals and other chemicals that are carried with the rain water from your lawn, rooftop and driveway.

Rain gardens help remove pollutants by filtering storm water runoff and slow the flow of water before it enters local waterways. By collecting and using rainwater that would otherwise run off your yard, rain gardens allow you to have an attractive landscape with less watering.

Rain gardens also provide habitat and food for wildlife including birds, butterflies and dragonflies which are mosquito predators.

### **Where to Locate Your Rain Garden?**

Rain gardens are best when they are placed in low lying areas where the water flows naturally. Gardens placed near patios, sidewalks and driveways can capture water from those areas.

They should be at least 10 feet from any house or foundation and should not be placed over a septic system. Areas with steep slopes should also be avoided.

You can direct water to your rain garden by disconnecting a downspout near the ground and reroute the water to your garden. You can also install a rain barrel at your downspout to capture the water and the overflow from your barrel would then flow into the rain garden through a rock lined channel.

### **What Size Rain Garden?**

A typical rain garden is usually between 100 and 300 feet, however, your rain garden can be any size. The ideal situation is to create a rain garden that will absorb all the runoff from your home.

Most rain gardens are between four and eight inches deep. If your rain garden is too deep it may tend to hold water for too long. Your rain garden should not hold water for longer than 48 hours. Mosquitoes require standing water for 7-12 days to complete their life cycle. A properly constructed rain garden will not attract mosquitoes.

### **How Much Does A Rain Garden Cost?**

Rain gardens range in cost from \$3 to \$5 per square foot if you buy the plants and do the work yourself. If you hire a landscape company to do the entire project for you, the cost could be anywhere from \$10 to \$15 per square foot.

Rain gardens do not have to be expensive and can be beautiful natural landscape features that require less maintenance and fewer chemicals than lawns do.

### **What Tools Do I Need?**

To construct a rain garden the basic tools you will need are a tape measure, shovel, rake, carpenter's level, wooden stakes or marking flags, string, trowel and a hand tamp.

### **Construction of the Rain Garden**

*A Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners* is available from the Lorain County Soil & Water Conservation District. They can be contacted at (440)326-5800. Other manuals and guidelines for the actual construction are available on the internet.

Landscaping companies and nurseries can aid you in determining which native plants would be best suited for your rain garden. They can also guide you on which invasive type plants should be avoided.