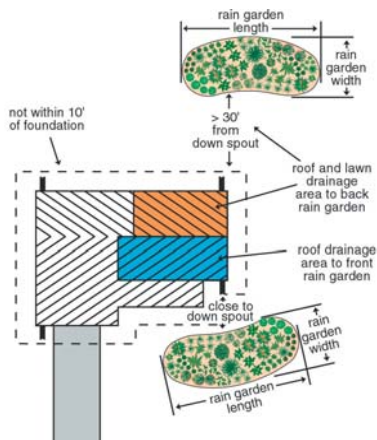


Constructing a Rain Garden

Rain gardens can be designed for any site, their size can vary and they can fit into odd shapes and spaces. You can easily create a simple rain garden in a weekend for no cost if you use plants you already have on hand or you can hire a professional or invest more of your own time and money to install a more elaborate rain garden. A few important things to remember.

- Rain gardens should be located down slope from building foundations and up-slope from any nearby storm drains. Note the direction of runoff in your yard and low spots where water collects.
- Locate the rain garden at least 10' from the foundation of your house (image)
- Hardy native species will thrive in rain gardens with little maintenance.
- Be aware of underground utilities and rights-of-way.
- Do not construct a rain garden over your septic system.



Find out more.... for more detailed information on constructing a rain garden, garden designs, lists of native plants, and native plant suppliers go to:

www.co.monroe.in.us/stormwaterquality/bioretenion.html

Find native plant suppliers go to:

Ask at your local greenhouse/garden center or refer to the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society for a list of native plant suppliers at:

<http://www.inpaws.org/2005LandscapeBrochureWEB.pdf>

Register your Rain Garden

The Monroe County Storm Water Environmental Education Team (SWEET) is undertaking an initiative to encourage citizens of this County to take a proactive approach to protecting water quality. Help us keep track of the rain gardens in Monroe County.

Register your rain garden at:

<http://www.co.monroe.in.us/RainGarden/register.htm>

SWEET

Interagency group of Monroe County, Bloomington, Ellettsville, Indiana University, Ivy Tech and citizen representatives focused on STORMWATER QUALITY EDUCATION

For more information, please contact:

Todd Stevenson, Monroe County Drainage Engineer

Phone: 812-349-2499

E-mail: tstevenson@co.monroe.in.us

Sources of information & images for this brochure include www.raingardens.org

RAIN GARDENS

Rain Gardens are beautiful landscaping features that manage storm water on site. Their loose deep soils absorb water and filter pollutants.



Rain gardens complement any style of landscape. They are an attractive addition to property and enhance the beauty of the community.

Make a beautiful contribution to cleaner water in Monroe County

What is a RAIN GARDEN?



A Rain Garden is a shallow depression planted with perennial native plants. It is a bowl-shaped or saucer-shaped garden, designed to absorb storm water run-off from impervious surfaces such as roofs and parking lots.

A Rain Garden can be a small, formal, home-owner style garden, large complex bioretention garden, or anywhere in between.



There are certain qualities that make a rain garden unique.

- Rain Gardens have a ponding area, but they are not ponds. They often are planted with wetland plants, but they are not wetlands (although you can design a rain garden that mimics a wetland).
- The garden absorbs and filters rain that would otherwise run off your property and down the storm drain. This storm water runoff usually comes from an impervious surface that rain cannot soak into, such as a roof or parking lot, or even a lawn.
- Many of the plants in the garden are native to the region, and have extensive deep roots that help the garden absorb rain. The native plants do not need special attention once they are established.
- The garden bed is prepared or sometimes replaced to a depth of two feet in order to decompact the soils and make the garden able to absorb water.
- A native plant garden that does not have rain directed into it from a hard surface of your property will still be a valuable asset, and will help absorb rain much better than a traditional landscape. But unless storm water runoff is directed into the garden, it is not a rain garden.

How does a Rain Garden help protect our water?

Rain is natural; storm water isn't. Government studies have shown that up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is carried there by storm water. Although most people never think about storm water, about half of the pollution that storm water carries comes from things we do in our yards and gardens!

Planting a rain garden may seem like a small thing, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off your roof, you would be very surprised. That rain is supposed to soak into the ground, but instead heads down the street to the storm drain, carrying pollution with it.

Keeping rain where it falls, by putting it into a beautiful rain garden, is a natural solution. You not only get a lovely garden out of it, you have the added benefit of helping protect our rivers, streams and lakes from storm water pollution. You can be part of a beautiful solution!

