

## Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are landscaped areas located where water from rain pools. They are designed to collect storm water runoff and let it slowly filter through the soil and plant roots naturally, instead of heading to a storm drain. This 'living sponge', filters and absorbs the runoff of excess pollutants and water that run off sidewalks roads, roofs, or other impervious surfaces. Specific plants are recommended to be planted in rain gardens. These plants are deep rooted, tough, water and drought resistant. The deep roots of the plants allow for the infiltration of water into the depths of the soil, and at the same time filter out excess fertilizers, pesticides and others pollutants common to urban runoff.

Do rain gardens attract mosquitoes? No. Mosquitoes need at least 7 days for eggs to hatch, and rain gardens should be installed close to the wet area, not in it. Ideally, it should drain in several hours. In fact, many rain gardens attract dragonflies, which eat mosquitoes. The estimated cost per square foot is \$3-\$5. Plan on \$10-\$15 per square foot if done by a professional.



### Benefits:

- Reduce amount of storm runoff water.
- Improve water quality of streams.
- Low-cost conservation practice.
- Provide wildlife habitat.
- Simple installation.

Good looking landscape feature.

### Plants for Rain Gardens:

Trees: Red Maple, Black Gum, Eastern Redbud.

Shrubs: Red-Twig Dogwood, Winterberry, Arrowwood Viburnum, Chokeberry.

Perennials: Cardinal flower, Purple Coneflower, Wild Geranium, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Sedges, Spiderwort, Great blue lobelia.

## Resources:

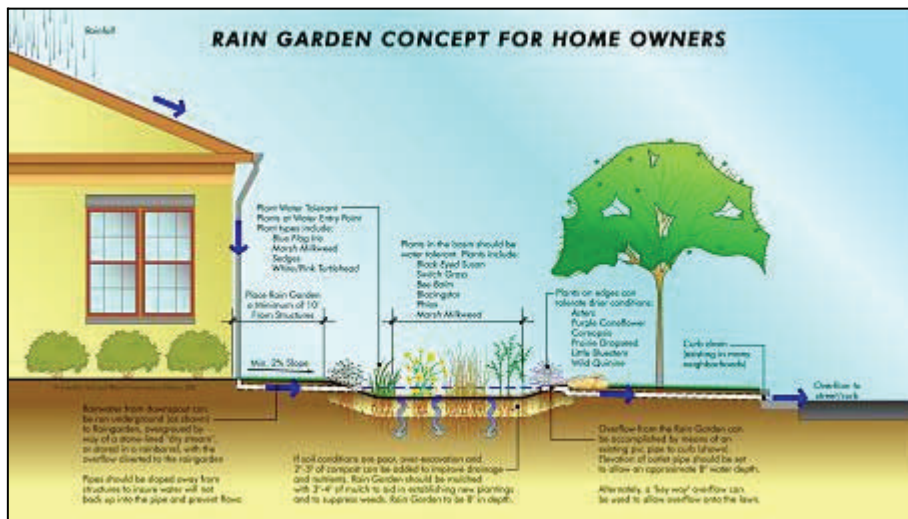
Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District: [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org)

[http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden\\_design/whatisaraingarden.html](http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/whatisaraingarden.html)

[http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/stormwater/pdf/WI\\_Rain\\_Garden\\_Manual.pdf](http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/stormwater/pdf/WI_Rain_Garden_Manual.pdf)

<http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/grantfunded-raingardens.html>

# RAINGARDENS



Franklin county Soil and Water Conservation District

The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District is an excellent resource for starting your rain garden project and learning about conserving water in our community.